

The Mining Journal

RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL GAZETTE:

FORMING A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF ALL PUBLIC COMPANIES.

No. 294.—VOL. XI.]

London: Saturday, April 10, 1841.

[PRICE 6D.

STANNARIES OF CORNWALL.
IN THE VICE WARDEN'S COURT.
BORLAZE AND OTHERS v. THOMAS.

WHEREAS the Vice-Warden did, on the 27th day of January last, order that a sale be made of (amongst other things) the machinery and materials upon, and belonging to, Wheal Rose Mine, in the parish of Sibly, within the said stannaries, under the direction of the registrar of the court, and that the proceeds of such sale should be applied by the said registrar in the manner directed by the decree, in the above mentioned cause.—Notice is hereby given, that, pursuant to the said decree, a PUBLIC AUCTION will be held at WHEAL ROSE MINE aforesaid, on Tuesday, 26th of April next, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for selling either together, or in lots, the undermentioned MINING MACHINERY, MATERIALS, and other effects—viz., a capstan and shears, two horse whins, with shaft tackles, twenty fathoms of ladder, a quantity of debenture, whole, half, and quarter bulk planks, &c., a timber shed, three pieces of Memel rod timber, three large iron blocks, a large quantity of wrought and cast-iron, smith's bellows, anvil, vice, grindstone, carpenter's bench, winch, kibbles, hists, chests, cisterns, barrows, a quantity of brick, nails, about twenty dozen of candlesticks, counting house furniture, &c., &c.

For viewing the same, application may be made at the mine, and for further particulars (if by letter post paid) to Mr. T. P. Tyacke, solicitor, Helstone; or to Messrs. Paul and Roberts, solicitors, Truro.

Dated the 31st day of March.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.—VALUABLE FREEHOLD ESTATE AND COAL MINES.
TO BE SOLD, BY AUCTION, by Mr. M. WHITTINGTON
(by order of the mortgagee, under a power of sale), at the Castle Inn, Neath, on Thursday, the 22d day of April next, at Two o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions as will be produced, unless previously dispensed of by private contract, of which due notice will be given, all that MESSUAGE or TENEMENT, FARM and LANDS, commonly called or known as NANSTALWN, otherwise NANSTALWN, situate and being in the several parishes of Ystradgyniad, in the county of Brecon, and Cadocion justa-Neath, in the county of Glamorgan, containing, by estimation, 160 acres, or thereabouts.

The situation of this property is well adapted for the erection of ironworks, having a plentiful supply of coal and iron ore upon the estate, with the command of two fine streams of water. There are six seams of coal, containing, in the aggregate, forty feet, or thereabouts; the seams of iron ore are also very productive, and have been proved to be of a very rich quality. This estate is also of great value, considered as the key to all the minerals under the Drim Mountain, several hundred acres in extent. The property is situate six miles from the Neath Canal, at Aberdulais, and three from the Swansea Canal, at Ynyscawd, to which place there is a ready communication by a railroad, which passes through the property, to the neighbouring quarries of limestone. There is also a valuable right of common upon the Drim Mountain attached to the estate. A small piece of the waste ground, containing sixty perches, or thereabouts, in extent, has been let for a term of which eighty seven years are now unexpired, at the annual rental of £20, and the estate will be sold subject thereto. An abstract of the powers under which this property is sold will be produced at the time of sale.

For further particulars, and to treat for the purchase, by private contract, apply to Mr. Montague Grover, solicitor, Cardiff; or to the auctioneer, Neath.—All letters to be prepaid.

TO BE SOLD, BY PRIVATE CONTRACT, that extensive coal field, known as the HAZLERIGG COAL MINES, together with the long-established, and valuable current going colliery, called FAWDON COLLIERY, situated about three miles north of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with all the fixed and movable stock thereon.

The coal, which is the High Main, or Wall's End seam, is of excellent quality for domestic purposes, and has been well known, in the London and coast markets for the last twenty-six years as "Newmarch's Wall's End." A new winning was commenced between one and two years ago, and a pumping engine erected thereon, considerably more than competent to the fullest requirements of the colliery, and no outlay will be needed in the winning of new portions of coal to this colliery for a long period of years. The great extent of the Hazlerigg coal field, comprising about 4000 acres, affords the opportunity of establishing other valuable collieries.

For further particulars, application may be made to Mr. James Easton, the colliery viewer, to Mr. Thomas Foster, Fawdon colliery, to John Wilkinson, Esq., solicitor, Hull; to Messrs. Bell, Brodrick, and Bell, solicitors, Bow Church-yard, London; or to Messrs. Carr and Jonling, solicitors, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Newcastle, November, 1840.

LEAD MINES TO LET.—WANLOCKHEAD LEAD MINES, in the parish of Banchory, and county of Dumfries, the property of His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry.—The present lease of these valuable mines has been extended for another year, to allow time for the arrangements necessary in settling with the present tenants; it will be in consequence expire on the 14th day of August, 1842, instead of 1841, as formerly advertised, and the lease of the land held by the present lessees, in connection with their mining operations, will expire at the term of Whitunday, 1842. The proprietor is now ready to treat for a new lease, to commence from and after these dates. Any company or individual of enterprise, acquainted with such matters, and possessing an ample capital, will probably find these works well worthy of their attention.

For further particulars apply to William Maxwell, Esq., Chamberlain on the Estate or Queensberry, Dalhousie, by Thorndill; Messrs. Gibson and Home, W. S., 12, Charlotte-street, Edinburgh; or Messrs. Oddie, Forster, and Lumley, solicitors, Carey-street, London.

WANTED, a second-hand CONDENSING STEAM-WHIM, or WINDING ENGINE, of from eighteen to twenty-four inches diameter in the cylinder, with fly-wheel, boiler, &c., complete, and having a cage with a vertical axle. Application, with full particulars, to be addressed to Mr. H. English, New Broad-street, London; or to Mr. H. Thomas, Concourse Mines, Ruthin, Ireland.

BLACK-JACK.—FOR SALE, at Moorswater, near Liskeard, at the head of the Liskeard and Looe Canal, about TWO HUNDRED TONS of BLACK JACK, from Wheal Gull Mine. For price and other particulars, apply to Crouch and Dymond, Penzance.—Penzance, March 20.

BLAENANON IRON AND COAL COMPANY.—NOTICE.—The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the proprietors of this company will be held on Friday, the 22d inst., at One for Two o'clock, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, which meeting will be made special for the purpose of confirming the resolutions passed at the Extraordinary Meeting of the 4th instant, for increasing the permanent capital of the company. W. H. WEST, Secy.

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COCAES SCRIP.—The following are the numbers of 102 scrip certificates FORFEITED for non-payment of the third instalment.—Nos. 164 to 166, 682 to 684, 696, 711, 749 to 777, 800 to 807, 1018, 1021, 1022, 1042 to 1048, 1059 to 1100.

By order of the board.

WILLIAM MARINER, Secretary.

National Brazilian Mining Association, 24, Throgmorton-street, April 3.

CORNWALL GREAT UNITED MINES.—Notice is hereby given, that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders will be held at the George and Vulture Tavern, Cornwall, London, on Thursday, the 20th instant, at Two o'clock precisely.

Manchester, April 5.

GREAT WHEAL CHARLOTTE MINING ASSOCIATION.—The resolutions for raising additional capital, having been resolved upon at the Special General Meeting, held for that purpose, on the 10th of March, and confirmed at another Special General Meeting on the 20th of March, the directors therefore give notice, that every holder of Great Wheal Charlotte Mining shares is entitled to the pre-emption of two new shares for every five old ones, on the 1st INSTANT OF FIVE SHILLINGS per share, on or before the 10th April, and the same on the 10th May, the 20th June, and the 31st July next, subject to profits, rules, and regulations, of all other shares on which Five Shillings per share has been paid.

Liskeard, Pontney-hill, March 30.

POLBRENN TIN AND COPPER MINING COMPANY.—Notice is hereby given, that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders will be held on Wednesday, the 10th of May, at One for Two o'clock precisely.—44, Fleet-street, London, April 5.

THE PATENT SAFETY FUSE, FOR BLASTING ROCKS IN MINES, QUARRIES, AND FOR SUBMARINE OPERATIONS.—This article affords the safest, cheapest, and most expeditious mode of effecting these very hazardous operations. From many difficulties with which the manufacturers have been favoured from every part of the kingdom, they sent the following letter, recently received from John Taylor, Esq., F.R.S., &c., &c.—

"I am very glad to hear that my recommendations have been of any service to you. They have been given from a thorough knowledge of the great difficulties of the Safety Fuse, and I am quite willing that you should employ my name as evidence of this."

Manufactured and sold by the Patentees, BICKFORD, SMITH, and DAVET, Chipping, Cornwall.

WANTED, in a locomotive and other engine manufactory, in one of the principal towns in the kingdom, two respectable youths as APPRENTICES. As the utmost care and attention will be bestowed in instructing them in every branch necessary to a full and competent knowledge of the business, a commensurate premium will be expected.—Letters addressed "Mechanics, and left at the office of this Journal, will be attended to after the 1st May.

ANDREW SMITH'S PATENT WIRE ROPE, for standing rigging, lightning conductors, shopping of blocks, mining, railway, and general purposes; about half the size and weight of hempen ropes, and 25 per cent. cheaper. Testimonials to that effect, with specimens, may be seen, and every information obtained, at the office, 76, Old Broad-street, city, & 9, Princes-street, Leicester-square; manufactory, Mill-wall, Poplar; and also of the following agents.—

Fox, Hawkins, and Hickling, New-street, Birmingham.
Robertson and Co., 12, Gresse Place, Liverpool.
Matthias Dunn, Wigan.
Joseph Bothway, Dublin.
John Thompson and Co., Belfast.
T. F. Tregellas, Glasgow.
Thomas Mooney and Son, James Kibble and Co., Lethe.James Gurne, James Gurne.

This rope has been in use for standing rigging in her Majesty's Navy, and is a great number of merchants' ships, for upwards of five years, and is giving the highest satisfaction; the rope is also employed in various mines and railways in different parts of the kingdom, but reference is especially made to the Blackwall Railroad, where its capabilities have been most severely tested, for although it has been in use upwards of eight months, and has travelled a distance nearly equal to the circumference of the earth, it is, to all appearance, as good as when first applied.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON, No. 3, Moorgate-street, Lombardy, and No. 6, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden.

Capital £2,000,000, in 2000 shares of £1000 each.

TRUSTEES.—The Right Hon. Lord Petre, Hon. William B. Petre, John Taylor, Esq., George Rennie, Jun., Esq.

DIRECTORS.—Chairman—Edward Stillingfleet Cayler, Esq., M.P.

Deputy Chairman—John Taylor, Esq.

Henry Barnwell, Esq., Gen. Alfred Musket, Esq., M.P.

George Bulpett, Esq., Edward Oxenford, Esq.

Thomas Collett, Esq., George Rennie, Jun., Esq.

Thomas Grinditch, Esq., M.P., John Showell, Esq.

John Harvey, Esq., Joseph Travers, Esq.

Arthur T. Holroyd, Esq., R. Walker, Esq., M.P.

Jonathan Hopkinson, Esq., Thomas Wyse, Esq., M.P.

Charles Weld, Esq., Manager—Alfred R. Cutbush.

Solicitors—Messrs. Amory, Sewell, and Moore, and Messrs. Norris and Sons.

The directors having purchased the banking premises in Henrietta-street, Covent-garden, lately occupied by Messrs. Wright and Co., hereby give notice, that they COMMENCED BUSINESS on the 31st ult. A committee of three of the directors will attend daily in Henrietta-street.

Accounts of parties received and kept on the plan generally adopted by London bankers. Parties having current accounts with this bank have the advantage of transferring any surplus balance to a deposit account bearing interest; and sums of money are received on deposit from parties not keeping current accounts, at such rate of interest and for such periods as may be agreed upon.

An arrangement has been made which ensures the strictest secrecy as to all accounts kept at this bank.

The agency of country and foreign banks undertaken on such terms as may be agreed upon. Purchases and sales of British and foreign securities, &c., effected, dividends received, and every description of banking business transacted.

NORTH KENT RAILWAY.—EVERY INFORMATION relative to this undertaking may be OBTAINED by application at the office, No. 42, Lombard-street, between the hours of Ten and Four o'clock daily.

OPENING—GREAT NORTH OF ENGLAND RAILWAY.—The public are informed that the GREAT NORTH OF ENGLAND RAILWAY was OPENED FROM YORK TO DARLINGTON, for public traffic, on Wednesday, the 1st of March.

The trains will depart at the following hours.—

FROM DARLINGTON TO YORK.

5 a.m.—Taking passengers for London, Derby, Birmingham, Sheffield, and Manchester.

6 a.m.—Taking passengers for London, Derby, Birmingham, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, Selby, and Hull.

12 m.p.m.—Taking passengers for Derby, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, Selby, and Hull.

3 p.m.—Mail, taking passengers for London, Derby, Leicester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, Selby, and Hull.

6 p.m.—Taking passengers to York.

FROM YORK TO DARLINGTON.

6 a.m.—Bringing passengers from York.

2 p.m.—Mail, bringing passengers from London, Leicester, Derby, & Sheffield.

9 a.m.—Bringing passengers from Manchester, Leeds, Selby, and Hull.

3 p.m.—Bringing passengers from Birmingham, Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, Selby, and Hull.

6 p.m.—Bringing passengers from London, Birmingham, Derby, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, Selby, and Hull.

Until further notice, passengers will only be booked as far as York, where the carriages are changed.

Until the 5th of April, 1841, the London mail trains will leave York at 12 a.m., instead of the hours stated in the time table.

On Sundays only the mail trains run.

FARES BETWEEN YORK AND DARLINGTON.

Passenger.—1st class, 12s.; 2d class, 6s.

Carriage.—On two wheels, 2s.; on four wheels, 3s.

Horse.—One, 2s.; two, 3s.; three, 4s.

Pass. riding in their own carriages, and children under seven years of age, at lower rates.

Carriages and horses must be at the station a quarter of an hour before the departure of the trains, and, to prevent disappointment, previous notice should be given in the station.

The company will not be responsible for luggage, unless it is booked and paid for according to its value, and passengers are particularly requested to have their name and address fully marked thereon, and to satisfy themselves that it is legible on the carriages.

THE COMPANY WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LUGGAGE, UNLESS IT IS BOOKED AND PAID FOR ACCORDING TO ITS VALUE, AND PASSENGERS ARE PARTICULARLY REQUESTED TO HAVE THEIR NAME AND ADDRESS FULLY MARKED THEREON, AND TO SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT IT IS LEGIBLE ON THE CARRIAGES.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE AND CARLISLE RAILWAY.

TIMES OF DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL OF THE TRAINS.

Leave Newcastle and Berwick.

Mid. Mail... Half past 4 morning.

Quick Mail... 9 o'clock.

Mid. Mail... 12 o'clock.

Quick Mail... Half past 1 afternoon.

Mid. Mail... 3 o'clock.

Mid. Mail... Half past 6 for Haydon Bridge.

SUNDAYS.

9 o'clock morning.

3 o'clock afternoon.

Leave Carlisle.

Arrive at Newcastle & Berwick.

Quarter past 9.

12 o'clock.

Half past 1.

Half past 1.

Half past 6.

6 o'clock.

Quarter past 6.

FARES.

Once To York—One carriage, 1s.; open 10s., 1s.; 10s.

Once To Carlisle—One carriage, 1s.; open 10s., 1s.; 10s.

The fares will be charged five minutes before the time of starting.

Trains coaches run daily between Carlisle and Lancaster, passing through Penrith, which is the direct route for the latter, for Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and London. Steam-boats run regularly between Carlisle and Liverpool, also for the Mersey, and the Mersey.

Passengers leaving Newcastle by the Twelve o'clock train will reach Carlisle in time for the 12 o'clock train for Liverpool, and vice versa.

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gypsum, and which, though in reality different from those of the calcaire grossier, have, nevertheless, a strong similitude to them. At length the sea retreats entirely for the third time—leaves or pools of freshwater come in its stead, and cover, with the remains of their inhabitants, almost all the summits of the eminences, and the surfaces even of some of the plains that separate them."

The paper then proceeds at great length to give in detail a great mass of interesting facts relative to the five principal formations already noticed—the chalk, the first freshwater formation, the great limestone (*calcaire grossier*), or lower marine formation; the siliceous limestone (*calcaire siliceux*); the gypseous formation, including the gypseous marls, freshwater and marine; the upper marine sands and sandstones; and upper freshwater (or highest) formation in the Paris basin—concluding with notices of the diluvial and alluvial formations; and to the paper was appended a list of the fossils of all the formations containing any. We cannot attempt even an abstract of these, by far the greatest portions of the paper, but must content ourselves with giving a few interesting facts mentioned in the course of these notices. Referring to the chalk formation, it is stated that—

"A very satisfactory measurement of its thickness has been obtained at Paris in the plain of Grenelle, where a boring has for some time been going on in the yard of the great slaughter-house for an Artesian well. [Since completed]. The total depth attained by the boring instrument is 508 metres, or about 1670 English feet. * * * At Montreuil, south of Paris, as also at Arcueil and Gentilly, the plastic clay, which is red, is extracted from beneath the calcaire grossier, by means of wells, sunk through the floors of the immense quarries that exist there, and is largely used for pottery. * * * This series (the calcaire grossier) forms the large beds south of Paris, out of which all the building stone of the capital is quarried, and there are few formations in the world which have been so well examined, and the nature of which is so well known. * * * One of the most striking characteristics of this part of the series (the lower strata of the calcaire grossier) is the extraordinary number of fossil shells which it contains, most of them so well preserved, that even their *oversoos* (pearly) lustre remains, and these shells that are provided with spines still retain them. [Specimens of shells exhibiting these remarkable proofs of excellent preservation, were upon the table]. * * * Near the upper part of this series occurs the bed locally called the 'rock' (la roche), which, from its superior quality, constitutes the best building stone round the capital. * * * At Carières St. Denis (so called because the monks of St. Denis made quarries there, for stone to build their abbey), the upper surface of the highest strata presents long and deeply-marked striae, evidently formed by violent erosive action, probably of some strong current; and throughout all the district vertical circular fissures or natural wells occur in the strata, filled with ferruginous clay, and broken or rolled flints. One of the most remarkable spots included in this part of the series, and one of the best known to tourists, is the beautiful valley, or rather elevated plain, of Montmorency, lying between the gypseous hills to the north, over which the forest of Montmorency extends, and the narrow ridge of the hills of Franconville, to the S.W. * * * To the south of Paris the calcaire grossier, in nearly its whole thickness, is well developed, though upon only a narrow strip of geographical extent, and stretches from Choisy le Roi to Menton. The southern part of the capital is built on part of this formation, and the extensive quarries cut into it for building stone for the city has formed the celebrated catacombs. * * * At Villepreux and Grignon, west of Versailles, the beds of the lower part of the series are remarkable for the extraordinary abundance of fossil shells they contain—all in the most perfect preservation. One bed in particular, a sandy one, from fifteen to twenty feet thick, is an entire mass of fossils, thrown together pell-mell, and most of them filled with sand, the same as that of which the bed itself is composed. M. Deffrance has enumerated 600 different species of shells from Grignon alone; they may all be found described in the works of Lamouroux and Deshayes, on the fossil zoölogy of the Paris basin. * * * The equivalent of the calcaire grossier in the London basin is what is commonly called the London clay. * * * This rock (the siliceous limestone), when burned for lime, produces it of very excellent quality; and the stone quarried from the thicker and harder beds is used for the higher and decorative purposes of building. It admits of a good polish, and then constitutes a beautiful dove-coloured marble. The columns of the church of Notre Dame de Lorette, and of the church of the Madeleine at Paris, as well as a great part of the triumphal arch at the Barrière de l'Étoile, are of this material. The rock is so penetrated with siliceous matter, that, if a small portion of it be put into nitric acid, the calcareous portions are eaten away, and a siliceous, reticulated, or sponge-like mass left, having the appearance of common Papuan millstone. * * * Two remarkable beds of oysters are found among them (the marine marls of the gypseous formation); and, what is very extraordinary, are constantly met with over a very wide extent of country. The lower bed contains oysters of a large size, all adhering to each other, just as they were when alive; the upper bed contains oysters of a smaller size, and equally well preserved. These two beds are valuable geological instances of fossils said to be *in situ*. * * * This formation (the upper marine sands and sandstones) is composed partly of an immensely thick bed of ferruginous and slightly calcareous sand, and partly of thick beds of sandstone, which are most extensively quarried for paving stones, and used not only for the capital, but for the greater part of the roads in the division of France. * * * The characteristic bed of this series (the upper freshwater formation), and what gives it its peculiar features, is the siliceous millstone formation for which it is celebrated, and which, from its nature and great extent, is nearly unique in the world. * * * It is quarried at numerous points, but especially at La Ferté-sous-Jouarre, and is exported to all parts of Europe as well as to North America. The siliceous millstone is a mass of intensely pure silica, sometimes blackish, sometimes milky white, sometimes reddish, full of cavities, which again have siliceous films and reticulated divisions within them, like the tissue of bones. All these cavities are either *lined* or filled with ferruginous or calcareous matter. In general, the more numerous and the smaller the cavities, the better is the quality of the millstone for economical purposes. The precautions used in cutting this formation into circular stones or slabs is very great; and the value of such stone is very considerable—a single slab, of the first quality, white coloured, not broken into fragments, fetches 1000 francs, or nearly £10, and a pair of common stones are usually sold at from 120 to 200. The square or broken pieces of the rock are bound together by iron bands into circular millstones, and these alone are the kind exported; the unbroken millstones never leave the country. The quarries at La Ferté-sous-Jouarre are known to have been worked for this stone upwards of 400 years. * * * On the S.E. side of the plain of St. Denis, in the cuttings made for the Canal de l'Ourcq, a small piece of rising ground was cut through to a considerable depth, and laid open several strata of argillaceous marls, under which was a thick bed of vegetable earth, at the bottom of which lay the immense deposit of the remains of ancient, and, in many cases, extinct mammals, which formed the groundwork for Cuvier's elaborate researches on fossil zoölogy. * * * The alluvial districts are to be found all along the course of the rivers; but they have not been so much studied as their importance merits. In the valley of Marne are peat beds; and at Châlons, near St. Germain, large trunks of trees have been found, deep in the soil of islands, now in the middle of the river. In the island which once existed in the Seine, where now the tobacco manufactory of Gross Cailly, in Paris, stands, there was found, in 1800, an ancient causeway. In general it may be said, that the alluvial and alluvial deposits of the Seine, the Marne, and the Oise, have not been sufficiently studied; and as M.M. Cuvier and Brongniart observe, there is enough in these formations to occupy a careful geologist for years."

Forest Raw.—Singular as may appear the notion that the impressions of rain should be recognisable and be recognised on the surfaces of tilted rocks, the opinion is held by some eminent geologists, on the evidence of specimens of new red sandstone taken from the Stretton Quarries, near Liverpool. In March, 1839, Mr. Cunningham, to whose researches in the Stretton Quarries we are indebted for much of our knowledge of the foot-prints of Chirotheria, and other ancient animals, communicated a paper on the subject to the Geological Society of London. In examining some of the slabs of stone extracted at the depth of about thirty feet, Mr. Cunningham observed, that their under surface was thickly covered with minute hemispherical impressions, or casts in relief of circular pits in the immediately adjacent layers of clay. The origin of these marks, he is of opinion, must be ascribed to showers of rain, which fall upon an argillaceous beach exposed by the retreating tide, and their preservation to the filling up of the indentations by sand. On the same slabs are impressions of the feet of small reptiles, which appear to have passed over the clay previously to the shower, since the foot-prints are also indicated by circular pits, but to a less degree; and this difference Mr. Cunningham explains by the pressure of the animal having rendered these portions less easily acted upon. "If these impressions on the clay be really the marks of rain or soil (a specimen is before us, and it certainly resembles such impressions on clay), perhaps the easiest way of comprehending the preservation of them is to suppose dry sand drifted by the wind to have swept over and filled up the foot-prints, rain-pits, and hollows of every kind which the soft argillaceous surface had received."

Volcanoes in BAVARIA.—It is stated in letters from Bavaria of the 20th of last November, that the volcano Goldi had been very active. Although no flames had appeared, the volumes of smoke issuing from the crater were very dense; and a slight fall of cinders had been experienced. The phenomena were most perceptible at Puppl, two miles from Traun, from which place it is said flames were observed. The most remarkable of these volcanic phenomena occurred on the 12th of last November,

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

INDEPENDENT WEST MIDDLESEX INSURANCE COMPANY.

HIGH COURT—KINGSTON, APRIL 6.

The disgraceful fraud perpetrated by the individuals composing the above "company," was this day brought before the notice of the court by an action brought by parties who had advanced money to the concern, against an individual named Williams, represented to be an attorney. The action was brought to recover large sums of money, such as 3000, 4000, and 7000.

Mr. Platt and Mr. Gurney appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. Theesiger and Mr. Creasy conducted the case for the defendant.

Mr. PLATT addressed the jury, and said the present action was brought with a view to recover large sums of money, of which the plaintiffs had been defrauded by means of the specious artifices and contrivances of the company with which the defendant was connected. By dint of flaming prospectuses and promises of great advantages, these unfortunate persons had been induced to part with their little all, and, in many instances, had been reduced to the most hopeless ruin. The learned counsel went on to state, that this company had come before the public offering great advantages for the investment of money, and nothing was neglected that was likely to mislead and defraud the public. The scheme was advertised in every direction, and unhappily it had its effect, for a great number of persons, deceived by the specious pretensions that were put forth, were induced to invest all they possessed in the world with this bubble company, and the consequence had been, as he before stated, their utter ruin. It would be proved that the defendant took a share in this scheme—that persons were hired at so much per day to sign policies, &c., as director, and, under these circumstances, the defendant, as he was prepared to contend, was liable to the plaintiffs for the loss they had incurred.

Mr. TURPIN said he could not struggle with the case, and consented to a verdict for the plaintiff.

Mr. PLATT applied for immediate execution.—Lord DENMAN—Most certainly.

SHEFFIELD AND MANCHESTER RAILWAY—NON-PAYMENT OF CALLS.

LIVERPOOL SPRING ASSIZES—APRIL 7.

THE COMPANY V. ARMSTRONG.—This action was brought by the Sheffield, Ashton under Lyne, and Manchester Railway Company, to recover from Mr. Robert Armstrong the amount of various calls made on the twenty shares he held in the company, amounting to 7500 principal, and 361 interest.—Total 7861. The defendant pleaded that he was never indebted.

Mr. CRESSWELL, for the plaintiff, said, this was one of the very numerous actions which the company had been compelled to bring, for the purpose of enforcing payment of their calls. The transfer to him was on the 4th of December, 1837, and the register was dated 27th June, 1838, and these calls were made since that time. The 11th section of the company's Act provided, that the company should enter in a book the names of the proprietors of the shares, which book should be sealed with the company's seal, and should afterwards be evidence of the parties being shareholders. The directors had power to make such calls at such periods as they thought fit, provided no call exceeded 10d. per share, and that there was an interval of three months between any call. It was necessary, under the Act, to show that the calls had been duly advertised in a newspaper circulating through the counties in which the railway was situated. The defendant had paid the first call of 2d. 10s. per share, and this claim was for the amount of the subsequent calls, including one on the 4th.

The register was produced, and the name of "Robert Armstrong, 29th of August, 1838—20 shares," was found in it.

Mr. Stevenson (one of the clerks of the company) read the advertisements for the several calls from different numbers of the *Manchester Guardian*, which were proved to circulate in the four counties of Lancaster, York, Derby, and Chester.—Mr. CRESSWELL, for the defendant, submitted that this was not enough; that the company was bound to publish the call in one or more newspapers published and circulated in each of the four counties.

The jury found for the plaintiff—damages 7861, costs 40s.

THE COMPANY V. VERNON.—This was a precisely similar case, except that the defendant, Mr. George Vernon, a shopkeeper and tradesman at Greenwich, had not paid the first or any subsequent call upon his twenty shares.—The general proofs having been given, Mr. Jay proved that he served the defendant with a writ, and that the defendant said he was the person named therein—that he had written to Mr. Parker (the company's law clerk), in Sheffield, and had made an offer to pay all he could; but if called upon to pay the whole it would ruin him. The jury found for the plaintiffs—damages 8111. 14s., principal and interest.

Mr. Baron HOLLY remarked, that if parties took shares they must sometimes expect to pay for them.

VARTOG IRON COMPANY—NON-FULFILMENT OF CONTRACT.

HIGGINS AND OTHERS V. SENIOR.—In this case, which was tried by a special jury of merchants, Messrs. V. Higgins and W. H. Higgins, trading in this town under the firm of Vincent Higgins and Son, iron merchants, were the plaintiffs, and Mr. John Senior, trading in this town, under the firm of John Senior and Co., iron merchant, was the defendant. The declaration set forth that the defendant agreed to sell the plaintiffs 1000 tons of Vartog or other merchantable bar-iron, at 6d. per ton, free on board at Newport, 200 tons to be delivered by the 20th August, 1840—400 tons in all September, and the remaining 400 tons by the 14th October—Maaesteg iron being excluded from the contract; that both parties agreed to perform this contract, and that the defendant was required to send the iron, but the defendant pleaded that he had made no such arrangement, and also that the plaintiffs had made no such arrangement with him.

Mr. DUNNAN stated the plaintiff's case. They had employed a Mr. Mead, formerly an iron merchant, as their agent, to buy this iron. About the 20th July last, he made a contract with the defendant's brother, William Senior, who was in the defendant's place of business, for 1000 tons of Vartog iron, but the contract was cancelled, and a new one was made, which the learned counsel read, to the effect that on the date set forth (21st July, 1840), they had sold, through Mr. Mead, to Messrs. V. Higgins and Sons, 1000 tons of Vartog or other merchantable bar-iron, common sizes, flat, square, and round, at 6d. per ton, free on board at Newport, less 5 per cent, for cash payment, with the stipulations as to delivery before mentioned, and certain others as to freight, &c., and some exceptions as to shipment. Though the plaintiffs had about the several times specified in the contract, made repeated demands for the parcels of iron, as per agreement, accompanying the demand with intimations that they should hold the defendant responsible for the breach of contract, they had not received up to this time any of the iron, which had risen in the market at the period, and they had consequently brought the present action.

For the defendant it was contended, and evidence was given to show, that only one-half the agreement had been produced, and the other half was put up to show that the contract with the defendant as principal, but as agent for the Vartog Iron Co. The counterpart of the agreement given by Mead to William Senior was put in and read. It was dated on the same day as the other, and commenced in the following terms:—Liverpool, 21st July, 1840. (Signed) Samuel Mead for V. Higgins and Sons, iron merchants, Bought of the Vartog Iron Co., for John Senior and Co., 1000 tons of good merchantable bar-iron, &c. The remainder of the paper was in precisely the same terms as that given in evidence for the plaintiff, except a postscript excluding Maaesteg iron.—The jury retired, and after a short absence, delivered in a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, 1450d., or 15. 9s. 10d. per ton on 1000 tons, costs, 40s. His solicitor certified that it was a fit case for trial by a special jury.

JOSEPH-SPOON COMPANIES.—The following gentlemen have been appointed as the Select Committee, to inquire into the state of the laws respecting joint-stock companies (banking companies excepted) with a view to the prevention of fraud.—Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Shore, Lord Granville, Somerset, Mr. G. W. W. Wood, Sir Thomas Fremantle, Mr. Oswald, Mr. W. G. Atwood, Mr. Cley, Mr. Godson, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Blaize, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Craig, Mr. Freshfield, Mr. Baring (Thetford), and Mr. Bowring.

EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE OF AN AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVE.—From a Correspondent.—On the 9th ult. the *Hickox and Harrison* engine hauled over the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad (31½ miles in length from Reading to its intersection with the Columbia Railroad) a net burden of 3000 tons of 2240 lbs., in 185 cars, weighing 173 tons, making a total gross weight of 481½ tons; weight of engine, with water and fuel, 26,700 lbs.; cars, four-wheeled; and running time 4 hours 34 min., the whole length of train 1200 feet. The engine started the above train, on a level, without any assistance, and gradually increased her speed to the average of 11½ miles per hour. The above performance is believed to be unequalled, and the train to be the longest and heaviest ever hauled by one engine on any railroad in Great Britain or America.

PARIS AND ROUEN RAILWAY.—The *Paris Journal*, in noticing the arrival of wagons and workmen for the Paris and Rouen Railroad in that port, says that the wagons have been hired from the London and Southampton Company at a much lower price than they could possibly have been in France, and that the workmen who have been sent over are all chosen from the most sober and laborious of their class that could be found in England. This Journal takes the opportunity of pointing out the activity and energy shown by the English engineers, and the Paris and Rouen Company, and holds up their example to the action of all engaged in France on similar works.

FOREIGN PATENTS.

[From a list of patents lately granted by the Belgian Government.]

AD. LE HARDY DE BEAUVILLE., a patent of invention for fifteen years, for a machine for extracting ores and raising water from mines by means of endless vertical ropes.

PIERRE JOSEPH DURIEUX., a patent of invention for five years, for a subterraneous goniometer, to be used instead of the compass in mines in which there are magnetic substances, or on railroads.

E. BOU., a patent of invention for fifteen years, for an apparatus applicable to the condensers of steam-engines working in a vacuum, and condensing by external cooling.

JEAN WINKLES., represented by Dethy, patent of invention for ten years, for improvements in the construction and arrangement of flood-gates and water-wheels.

MATTHIEU LOUIS MÜSSELER., a patent of improvement for fifteen years, to date from the 15th Sept., 1840, for improvements in the colliers' lamp (for which he had previously obtained a patent).

E. G. BRABANT LEMIELLE., a patent of invention and improvement for ten years, for a process of soldering metals by their fusion alone, without the aid of other substances.

JAMES HANCOCK., represented by Delanson Clark, a patent of invention and improvement for fifteen years, for an improved method of raising water and other fluids.

HENRI STEVEN., a patent of invention for fifteen years, for a machine for raising water to any required height by atmospheric pressure.

J. S. GUILLERIN., a patent of invention for ten years, for a new mode of draining, effected by pumps, called by the inventor "semi-auto-motives."

G. HOORICKX., a patent of importation for five years, for the manufacture of a new fuel called "carboilene."

HENRI STEVEN., a patent of improvement for fifteen years, to date from the 3d Feb., 1841, for an improvement in the machine for raising water (for which he obtained a patent the 3d Feb., 1841), and which improvement consists in substituting condensed steam in place of the pneumatic pump.

[From the *Journal of the Franklin Institute*.]

Specification of a patent for an improvement in the process of protecting articles of iron and steel from oxidation, granted to Palmer Summer and Peter Naylor.

To all whom it may concern, be it known that we, Palmer Summer and Peter Naylor, of the city of New York, have invented an improvement in the "process, method, or methods, by which various articles of iron, or steel, may be preserved from oxidation, or rusting, by the galvanic action produced by zinc," for which process letters patent of the United States were granted to M. Sorel, on the seventh day of December, 1837; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of our improvement.

We, the said Palmer Summer and Peter Naylor, having become proprietors, by assignment, of a right to use the said process, have, in carrying the same into practical operation, found that the malleability of sheet-iron is much impaired by giving thereto a coating of zinc, in the manner directed in the specification of the letters patent of the said M. Sorel; and that, in consequence of this diminished malleability, such prepared sheet-iron is unsuited, in many cases, to be applied to the purpose of covering the roofs of houses, or to be otherwise used where it is required to be grooved, serrated, or in any way suddenly bent; and our improvement consists in a process by which this difficulty is obviated, whilst the zinc is at the same time so applied as by its galvanic action on the iron, to protect it from oxidation.

We take sheets of iron, and cover them with tin, or with an alloy of the and lead, adopting in this process the mode, or modes, followed in the well-known manufacture of sheets, or plates, of iron into tin plate. After having completed this operation, we submit the sheets, or plates, so prepared to a like process, with the substitution of zinc for tin, or an alloy of tin; the mode of performing which process is fully set forth in the letters patent granted to said M. Sorel, and does not differ from the ordinary process known under the name of tinning. When thus treated, the plates, or sheets, of iron, preserve their malleability unimpaired, and may be bent and otherwise worked as easily as before they had received such coating—a result which appears to be due to the interposition of the coating of the between the zinc and the iron, by which interposition the chemical combination of the iron and zinc is prevented. Where it is not necessary to use plates of metal of a larger size than that of sheets of tin plate, we take that material as it comes from the manufacturers, and have only to give to it a coating of zinc, to receive which it does not require any particular preparation.

In the letters patent granted to M. Sorel, it is proposed, sometimes, to add a coating of tin over that of the zinc, for the purpose of giving to the article made, a brighter appearance; and as an improvement also in culinary vessels; but our process is the reverse of this, and the end attained by us altogether different from that above proposed, and, at the same time, our process produces a new and useful result.

What we claim, therefore, as our invention, and as an improvement on the process of M. Sorel, is the preserving the malleability of sheet-iron, whilst it is protected from oxidation by the galvanic action between it and the zinc, in the manner above set forth—namely, by first tinning said iron in the ordinary way, and afterwards by giving thereto a coating of zinc above the tin.

THE MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS AT COUILLET.
The following account of the manufactures carried on at Couillet, near Charleroi, taken from *Le Final*, gives a most flourishing description of the iron manufactures in Belgium:—Couillet is only half an hour's journey from Charleroi, and by Charleroi is generally understood all the surrounding localities which give importance to a town, which in itself is very disagreeable, and has nothing to recommend it. A simple description of this great depot of industry will give some idea of its extent and importance. Many of our readers have heard the name of this establishment again and again, but they cannot form an idea of its amazing extent. It was surpassed only by one rival in Belgium; but Seraing was too large, it was like Mount Athos, overwhelmed by its own weight. Couillet possesses eight blast furnaces. There immense cauldrons, in which the coke and the ore produce every morning and evening lakes of boiling metal, which is run every twelve hours. There are also two furnaces of fine metal; a large factory for making fire-proof bricks; a rolling apparatus, where the thickest bars of iron are rendered as pliable as the smallest needles. There is also a large foundry, a manufactory for steam-engines and machinery; two large forges; a workshop for the construction of boilers, those prime movers of modern industry, where the roaring steam is at once confined and rendered formidable. Couillet is able to produce in one day 45,000,000 kilograms of cast-iron, 30,000 kilograms of fine metal, and 30,000 kilograms of bar-iron of all sizes. It can produce in a year steam-engines equal, in aggregate power to the force of

MINING CORRESPONDENCE.

ENGLISH MINES.

April 5.—I beg leave to inform you, that the lode in the 110 fathom level west is about eight inches wide, and producing rich stones of copper ore. The 100 fathom level west is still in a good course of ore, the lode being eighteen inches wide, and worth 35d. per fathom. In the new stopes, to back of this level, no lode has as yet been taken down. In the ninety fathom level west the lode is sixteen inches wide, and worth 13d. per fathom. In the rise, in the back of the eighty fathom level, the ground is still moderate. In the level east of the engine-shaft the lode is twenty inches wide, composed chiefly of mundic and spar. The lode in the eastern stopes, in back of the eighty fathom level, is sixteen inches wide, and worth 20d. per fathom. The lode in the western stopes, in back of ditto, is twenty inches wide, and worth about 32d. per fathom. In the seventy fathom level, eastern stopes, the lode is twenty inches wide, and worth 30d. per fathom. The lode in the western stopes, in back of ditto, is eighteen inches wide, worth about 25d. per fathom. The cross-cut to Hitchins's shaft, at the sixty fathom level, and rise in the back of ditto, against Bray's shaft, are without important alteration. The tribute pitches, upon the whole, are still looking favourable. We weighed on Tuesday, the 30th ult., February ores, 206 tons 6 cwt., and sampled March ores, computed 208 tons, of good quality. F. PHILLIPS.

REDMOOR CONSOLIDATED MINING COMPANY.

April 5.—The summen are still engaged in fixing the lift, altering pit-work, &c., &c., to the fifty fathom level. We suppose they will resume sinking in course of a day or two. In driving cross-cut south, at the fifty fathom level, the ground is favourable. At the forty fathom level, driving east, on the great south lode, we have opened on its course about six feet; its size is eighteen inches, composed of spar, spar, mundic, and stones of copper ore. On the middle lode, at the thirty fathom level, going west, we find the lode to be from ten to twelve inches wide, producing a large quantity of mundic, and a portion of copper ore, but not rich for the latter. At this level we are also driving south on the silver-lead lode, which is at present from eight to ten inches wide, yielding good work, ground not quite so favourable as last week. During the past week we have had two men driving west from the wing, on the new copper lode, at 35s. per fathom, where we have a lode eighteen inches wide, yielding two tons of ore per fathom, with very hopeful appearances. The new pitch, set on this lode last setting, is looking favourable. The other three pitches are still producing about the usual amount of ore. Huri Down cross-cut is progressing speedily; we have driven about seven fathoms north of the shaft. F. R. ROWE.

CORNUBIAN MINING COMPANY.

April 3.—We have set sixteen pitches, varying from 19s. to 7s. per ton, and in the said pitches there are employed forty-three men on tribute; we have eight tutwork bargains, employing thirty-four men. At the fifty fathom level, driving west of engine-shaft, on Chiverton lode, it is two feet wide, and passing through good tribute ground. In the north side of this level we have just cut into the counter lode, which we find also very promising; it is two feet wide, and is likely to produce, from present appearances, a great quantity of good work; the lead appears in this place to hold down quite as strong as at shallower levels, and our opinions are that it is richer for silver—very promising level. Our last parcel of thirty-five tons, sold on the 26th ult., brought 16s. 6d. per ton. We shall now prepare for the sinking of the engine-shaft to a sixty fathom level, but will require the whole of this month before we shall be able to get our new bottom for the plunger lift made at the foundry, and as well other necessary alterations required in the present pitwork; so time, however, will be lost in carrying into effect an object so desirable. The fifty fathom level, driving east, on Chiverton lode, is two feet wide, four inches of which is a rich lead of ore. At the forty fathom level, driving east, we have an improvement; the lode is become large, and yielding some good stones of ore. In the thirty-two fathom level we are driving east on the north counter lode; at present it is unproductive, but we consider, as it is large, and imbedded in very soft and congenial-looking stratum, that there is a great chance of meeting with something valuable in this lode—at all events, it is an object well deserving our attention. The other operations on tutwork are sinking of shafts, driving cross-cuts, &c., and which I can only add are in easy and cheap ground. In conclusion, I beg to say that Cornubian Mine assumes a very encouraging aspect, and, with a little patience and perseverance, there are reasonable grounds to hope and expect she will make a lasting and profitable concern.

TAMAR SILVER-LEAD MINING COMPANY.

April 5.—In the 135 fathom level the lode is much the same as stated for some time past, it is about two feet wide, intersected with a small quantity of ore. In the 125 fathom level the lode is nine inches wide, at present poor. In the 115 fathom level the lode is six inches wide, carrying a rich branch of silver-lead ore. In the 105 fathom level we are at present cross-cutting west as described by Capt. Rowe in his monthly report. In the ninety-five fathom level the lode is three feet big, one foot of which is good work. In the wing, sinking from the seventy-five to the eighty-five fathom level, the lode is one foot wide, producing some ore work. In the tribute department, we are, on the whole, looking favourable, particularly in the back of the 105 fathom level; and, judging from the present prospect, we expect to have a larger sampling for the next than the last. MARK JAMES.

TINCROFT MINING COMPANY.

April 6.—I am glad to say that the eighty-one and seventy-two ends have improved for copper during the past week. The ninety end will produce about two tons of copper per fathom. The 100 end is now passing through a cross-course. The engine-shaft and other levels continue much the same as last reported. Our pitches, on the whole, are looking better for tin and copper. We are sinking the water pretty well at Palmer's shaft. The lode in the new engine-shaft is twenty inches wide, with plenty of mundic and good stones of copper ore. W. PAUL.

TREYFOLD MINING COMPANY.

April 5.—The lode in the forty fathom level east of engine-shaft is about one foot wide—tribute ground; eight fathoms driven last month, much the same. The lode in the fifty fathom level west of engine-shaft is twenty inches wide—tribute ground; four fathoms driven last month, good tribute ground. The lode in the thirty fathom level east of Williams's shaft is one foot wide—good tribute ground; about eight fathoms driven last month—three fathoms unproductive—five fathoms tribute ground. The lode in the ten fathom level east of Williams's shaft is small and unproductive; seven fathoms driven last month—three fathoms very good tribute ground, two fathoms tribute ground, and two fathoms unproductive. The part we are driving out of the Mine Park lode, at the adit level, is one foot wide, producing a small quantity of ore; three and a half fathoms driven last month—much the same. Tregellis's lode, at the adit level, is about fifteen inches wide—unproductive; four fathoms driven last month; three fathoms produced during a small quantity of ore, and one fathom unproductive. The rise, in the back of adit, west of Williams's shaft, is suspended; nine fathoms driven last month—unproductive. Last Friday (our setting-day) twenty-one pitches were set in different parts of the mine—two at 11s.; one at 10s. 6d.; four at 10s.; one at 9s. 6d.; one at 9s.; two at 8s.; two at 7s.; two at 6s. 6d.; five at 6s.; and one at 4s. 6d.

H. WILLIAMS. J. MORCOM.

MINING NOTICES.

[Under this head we purpose collecting such paragraphs as may appear in the mining and other Journals, having reference to discoveries and improvements in mining operations at home and abroad. It is hardly necessary to observe, that we must not be considered to admit the correctness of the information contained, which, in too many instances, requires cautious investigation—the sanguine expectations of parties in some instances, and the want of honesty in others, throwing a degree of responsibility on a Journal in giving publicity to reports, which we do not intend taking upon ourselves.]

DIAMOND MINES AND GOLD MINES IN SUMATRA.—It is stated in letters from Amsterdam that a diamond mine has been discovered in the district of Delatuan, in the southern part of Sumatra, which, according to all appearances, is as rich as the most abundant of those of Borneo. The mine is to be worked by the Government. The gold mines of Boujou, and of Kampong Kardi, in the same island, which have only been worked since 1827, bear more and more productive the deeper they are worked. From these mines, where formerly the gold was found only in the form of powder, masses of gold are now obtained, weighing from two to three, and even as much as four pounds.—*Advertiser's Advertiser*.

IRON TRADE IN BERWICK.—There has of late been a great and gratifying increase in the manufacture of articles of iron in this place, all the three founders having been for some time in full and active operation. The admiral's *Leah* sailed from this on Saturday last for London, with a cargo of 130 or 125 tons weight, consisting of miscellaneous articles manufactured at Helen Iron Works, varying from 12 cwt. to a few pounds each. This is by far the largest exportation of this species of manufacture ever sent from this port. The *Enterprise*, also, a short time ago, sailed with a cargo of 125 tons of similar articles manufactured in the same works. Mr. Grahame employs between eighty and ninety workmen at the Helen Iron Works, and forty or fifty at the old foundry, and a large number are also employed by the Messrs. Robertson in their extensive establishment at Berwick.—*Advertiser Advertiser*.

STIRLINGSHIRE LEAD MINE.—Lord Lovell has leased out to an English gentleman, Mr. Thomas Dodd, the lead mine lately opened at his brother's property in Stirlingshire. The mine consists of lead ore and barytes, five miles in length, by two and a half in width. The object of Mr. Dodd is to form a company for working the above mine, by raising a capital of £100,000. in shares of £1 each.—*Advertiser Advertiser*.

PROCEEDINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

BLAENAVON IRON AND COAL COMPANY.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at the London Tavern, on Tuesday, the 6th instant.

F. WARDEN, Esq., in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN proceeded to state, that the views of the directors were embodied in the report, and, after the mature consideration they had given it, and the great interest which the directors themselves had in the undertaking, the shareholders must consider that as a guarantee, and that the course which had been recommended for their adoption was the one most likely to be beneficial to the proprietors at large. He begged to remove an erroneous impression which had gone abroad, that the company required to raise 100,000l. in addition to the sum mentioned in the report. He requested Mr. Serveson to state to the meeting the state in which he found the works of the company upon taking the management—also, to answer any question that any proprietor might suggest.

The SECRETARY then read the report, the substance of which was as follows:—That of the sum of 150,000l. authorised to be raised on the security of debentures, 36,000l. had only been obtained. The capital represented by the new shares (viz., 100,000l.) is designed to serve the double purpose of forming a fund to pay off these debentures, when required, and also to supply the means for completing three new furnaces, and an extension of the present forge and mill. It went on to state, that their new manager reported that he found the outlay upon the works had proceeded so far that it will require no more than 22,000l. to put in these three new furnaces; and, including the other necessary outlay, the alterations recommended at the forge and mill will not exceed 50,000l.—making in all, for the works, 37,000l. By these alterations, their weekly "make" may be increased to 300 tons, which will render it unnecessary to erect a forge and mill at the new works; at the same time, the manufactured iron will embrace a greater variety than hitherto, and will command, it is hoped, a ready sale; a further sum of 33,000l. is required as working capital. Thus, 60,000l. may be assumed as the sum necessary to place the company in possession of eight furnaces, capable of producing between 600 and 700 tons of iron per week. The increase of permanent capital, proposed to be created by the issue of 2000 new shares (viz., 100,000l.)—together with the amount uncalled on the original shares (viz., 30,000l.)—would be appropriated in the following manner:—Additional outlay on works, 27,000l.; reserved for liquidation of debentures, 36,000l.; loan from bankers, 20,000l.; working capital, 33,000l.—116,000l.; surplus, 14,000l.—Total, 130,000l. The report laid before the proprietors at the meeting of the 24th of April, 1840, showed that the aggregate profits of the Blaenavon Iron and Coal Company, during the three and a half years of the company's existence, then amounted to 92,000l. The amount paid in dividends, computed upon the joint-stock capital, from the periods at which it had been advanced by the shareholders, averaged upwards of 8 per cent. upon the investment for the entire period; but, computed upon that part of the capital only which had been productive, the amount paid as dividends averaged upwards of 10 per cent. for the same period. Since that report was made 5l. more (making 45l. per share) has been paid up. Now, assuming the year 1840 as wholly unproductive, it would yet appear, that, by throwing the profit of the first three years and a half over the whole four years and a half, the shareholders have received a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum upon the capital paid up, since the formation of the company; or, deducting that portion yet unproductive, 7 per cent. per annum. It also appears that the average net profit per annum at the old works, after deducting all expenses in London, has been 19,296l. Assuming them, from this result, a profit of 4000l. per furnace per annum, five furnaces would give 20,000l.; deduct interest on debentures and loans, 6500l.; leaving 13,500l., which, if divided, would allow only 32s. 6d. per share, being less than 4 per cent. per annum upon the (paid-up) capital. But if the capital of the company is not increased, it may be necessary to appropriate the sum of 6000l. annually towards the liquidation of the mortgage, reducing the amount to be divided to 5000l., yielding a dividend of less than 3½ per cent., until the mortgage be paid off. The amount borrowed, however, including the sum of 26,000l. due to debenture holders, is 36,000l., towards the discharge of which, the sum remaining uncalled for upon the old shares (viz., 30,000l.) is available—leaving a balance of 26,400l., still unprovided for. Assuming, then, 4000l. as the average profit per furnace upon eight furnaces, the amount of profit would be 32,000l.; add rent saved, 500l. per annum, on three furnaces built on the freshfield, 1500l.; interest paid, 500l. From this must be deducted—Interest on mortgage, 2500l.; interest at 8 per cent. on 40,000l. (expected to be called up on the new shares), 3200l.; interest on debentures, loans, &c., 5300l.; 11,000l. There remains 20,500l. to be divided, giving 5s. per share (i.e., exceeding 6 per cent.) on the old shares, and leaving a surplus to be added to the reserved profits.

Mr. SCRIVENOR entered into a brief statement of the state of efficiency of the company's works, and concluded by recommending an increase in the make of boiler plate, which commanded a ready sale, and for which their iron was well adapted. Mr. EMANUEL ZWILICHENHART, on the part of the Liverpool shareholders, put some questions to the secretary, but, at the request of the chairman, they were postponed until the next meeting.

A resolution, embracing the principal points of the report, was then moved by Sergeant TADDY, and seconded by Mr. JONES, and carried unanimously.

After a few observations from Messrs. Evers, Sewell, and Morgan, thanks were voted to the chairman and directors, and the meeting separated.

WEST LONDON RAILWAY COMPANY.

An adjourned especial general meeting of the shareholders of the above company was held at their offices, Abchurch Lane, on Monday, the 5th inst.

W. MORGAN, Esq., in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN opened the business of the meeting, by giving to the shareholders a statement of the affairs of the company, which he represented as being in a most distressing state; committee after committee had been formed, and meeting after meeting called, and as yet no resolution had been come to that would in any way meet the wants, or even the necessities, of the company; creditors were urgent for their demands—landholders saying, either give us our money or return us our lands—landlords pressing—the loss by law-suits enormous—and even the very works, that had cost so much labour and money, were crumbling away before their eyes, all for want of money—of a mere sum, that is as nothing compared with the greatness of the undertaking, and the profits that, when once completed, it must yield. The Act they had obtained was more satisfactory, and gave them greater powers than even the most ambitious among the shareholders could have expected, and, should they then, for a few pounds, lose the whole that they have expended, and let their ruins remain to make them the laughing-stock of the public? Several plans have been laid before the shareholders, but none had been carried out; they must now return to the plan as first proposed by the directors—viz., to carry on steam from one canal to the other, and from that to the river and to Knightbridge; whether this plan will be supported by the shareholders remains to be proved; it appeared to him that there were no objections to it; as the negotiations with the landholders had terminated so favourably, the company had obtained their object in almost every instance. An arrangement has been entered into with the creditors, who have agreed to wait for one year, provided the canal plan is finished; the water companies have acted very liberally—indeed, the public generally have evinced a great interest in the concern, for, only taking the drainage of the rail-road into consideration, a great national benefit must accrue, by the advancement of the health of the community. Another company is only waiting for the commencement of this railway to carry it on to Deptford, and the two canals are about to proceed beyond where it stops; with these advantageous prospects it would be madness for us to stop. Money must be raised, and the question now before the meeting is, how to obtain it? Time is of the utmost importance, and, if the railway is to be prosecuted, it must be done immediately; new shares must be issued, with equal advantages to the new as to the old holders. He (the chairman) said the sacrifice was great, but what else could be done. They have an engineer of great ability, and contractor who would finish the work in a very short time. The chairman then concluded, by recommending unanimity among the shareholders, and trusted that they might part with good freedom, and better prospects than hitherto.

Dr. CAMPBELL thought the chairman had not given a very flattering account; from his own knowledge, he could say that the rail-road was not in as deplorable a state as had been told before the meeting. He lived at Shepherd's Bush, and had walked since the last meeting over all the works of the company, which he found in a most excellent state—indeed, the whole of the embankments and the bridge from Shepherd's Bush to the Great Western Railway were in the greatest state of perfection. A vote of thanks from Parliament ought to be given to the company, as their drainage had rendered Shepherd's Bush one of the most wholesome places in the vicinity of London, instead of being, as it was a few years back, one of the most unhealthy. Before the company commenced operations he gave 1000l. per acre for some land in the lane leading to Wormwood Scrubs, which, from the improvements, is now worth at least per acre.

Mr. J. WALTERS gave in twelve papers, and some plans for carrying on the railway, which were discarded, before the meeting separated, to be utterly impracticable. He also mentioned a method by which the company might become extricated from all their difficulties, by selling the land at their farm (nearly three acres) for 1000l. per acre; but the only difficulty was, that nobody would give more than 1000l. per acre for it. He then laid his plans and papers on the table, with the understanding that the directors were to supply him with copies of them.

Mr. J. B. LALLAIG urged that the last meeting was adjourned, only to get something done; if they did not carry on the present line success-

fully, no very evident; it only remained to be decided whether the whole of what they had hitherto subscribed should be lost, or if they should subscribe 50l. per share to save it, and, indeed, return profit to the pockets of the shareholders. The chairman had said that doing was rational—it was, indeed, and if anything was to be done, the sooner they set about it the better, for all parties concerned. He (Sir John) then moved—“That the line be completed with one line of rails from the Kensington Canal Basin to the Grand Junction Canal, for which purpose 40,000l. should be raised, in 20,000 shares of 2l. each; such shares to be entitled to all the advantages of the 50l. shares, to be rateably divided amongst the proprietors, and, in the event of their returning them, to be offered to the public at large, to be paid for by four instalments of 10s. each—the first at the time of allotment, the second on the 5th of August, the third on the 5th of November, and the last on the 5th of February, 1842—a scrip to be issued on the payment of the first allotment.”

Mr. SHEPPARD, M.P., moved, as an amendment—“That the line do stop at the Kensington-road;” he thought that 30,000l. would be sufficient to cover all expenses, which he proposed to raise by 5l. shares, and, if that was agreed to, he would at once double the number of his shares, and pay the cash at once.—Mr. J. WHITE seconded the amendment.

Mr. CONNOR also moved, as an amendment—“That 60,000l. be raised by shares, at 10s. per share;” but the general voice of the meeting being against the amendment, he withdrew it.

The CHAIRMAN having proved Mr. Sheppard's amendment impracticable, on account of having no ground where a station could conveniently be formed, he, with the consent of Mr. White, withdrew it. He (the chairman) also informed the meeting that Mr. White's plan for raising money by mortgage had been unsuccessfully tried, as nobody would lend it—in fact, the company's securities were valueless.

Mr. M'FARLANE explained to the meeting that he would only consent to the money being raised by new shares on condition of its being invested in the hands of trustees, so that the directors could not apply it to any other purpose, but that of completing the railway—viz., 32,000l. to the railway, and 8000l. to pay sundry small debts.

Mr. DUNCOM (solicitor to the company) said the resolution was drawn up in such a manner, that the money could be applied to no other purpose.

Some discussion took place, as to whether fourteen or twenty-one days should be given after the date of the calls, before the shares which remained unpaid were to be forfeited, which was settled ultimately at fourteen days; also, as to whether the shares were to be decided forfeited, or whether it should be optional with the directors—the latter method was agreed to.—The resolutions were then put by the chairman, and carried aye, aye, aye, aye.

Mr. WHITE said his name should never appear to a unanimous agreement.

Mr. SHEPPARD, M.P., was anxious that something should be done for the benefit of the poor shareholders who might not be able to pay the additional 5l. per share. After a long discussion, it was decided that the Act would allow of no distinction between the shareholders.

It was moved by Mr. M'FARLANE, and seconded by Mr. LIVARD—“That the land remaining of the farm should be sold, either by public auction or public tender”—which was carried unanimously.

Thanks were voted to the chairman, and the meeting separated, the discussion having lasted 3½ hours.

BAHIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

An adjourned half yearly general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at the George and Vulture Tavern, on Monday, the 5th inst.

JOHN BENSON, Esq., in the chair.

Mr. THOMAS (in the absence of Mr. Cannon) read the advertisement convening the meeting, after which the report and statement of accounts were submitted.—The report, after recapitulating the substance of that laid before the meeting in December last, proceeded to state, that upon the change in the board of directors, the company's affairs were in the greatest confusion—the exclusive right of navigating the waters rendered useless by the terms imposed by the Government—the vessels purchased for the company had proved totally unfit for the employment intended, and even the company's right thereto was daily exposed to litigation, in short, the vessels had been registered by the late board in the name of a single director, the consequence of which was, that on a recent occasion, when the board were requested to affix a price to one of the vessels for delivery at Bahia so desirable an opportunity was lost, the directors being unable to give a legal title to the property in question. They had given positive orders for the return of the unsuitable boats, but the agents urged on the directors to make efforts to sell the boats in Brazil rather than send them to England. The gentleman departed to Bahia to select the site of ground granted by the Government, in his letter stated that the bottom of the Bahia was in such a state as would shortly move her out of work, which interruption in the navigation of the bay would cause great dissatisfaction there. They also regretted that the factory for the repair of the boats, upon the inspection of the gentleman deputed to Bahia, was found devoid of all essential conveniences. The question now was, whether the remaining funds should be returned to the public, or be employed in a further outlay, for which experience fully demonstrates no returns can be expected. An outlay absorbing the whole of the subscribed capital had taken place, exclusive of the boats at Bahia, the value of which was undefined, and which are the subject of a suit in Chancery. The funds were quite inadequate to the prosecution of the undertaking; in such a position the only resources would be the receipt of remittances from Brazil, which cannot be calculated on; under such circumstances, the board have come to the conclusion that the further prosecution of the objects of the company should be abandoned.—The statement of accounts showed the following results—total receipts, 12,113l. 1s. 3d.; expenditure, 44,681l. 1s. 6d.; balance, 7,441l. 9s. 9d.; Exchequer bills, 6,000l.; 16s. 10d.

The CHAIRMAN called the attention of the

THE MINERS' COMPANY.—The court of assistants of the Governor and Company of Copper Miners in England hereby give notice, that the HALF-YEAR'S DIVIDEND declared this day, will be payable at their house, No. 57, Old Broad-street, on Thursday, the 13th inst., and on Wednesdays and Thursdays following from Eleven till Two o'clock.

Office of the Governor and Company of Copper Miners in England,
Old Broad-street, London, April 6.

THE MINING JOURNAL

Being extensively circulated among the monied and influential interests, offers peculiar advantages and facilities in giving publicity to all matters with which the capitalist, and the proprietor in joint-stock companies, may be interested. The advertisements inserted in the Journal are confined to prospectuses of new undertakings; notices of meetings, calls, and dividends; contracts for works; sales of mineral and landed property; descriptions of new mechanical inventions; scientific institutions, works, and notices—all these advertisements possess the unusual advantage of being associated only with others of a like nature, and being brought immediately under the notice of the parties interested.

SCALE OF CHARGES.

One column	45 6 0	Twenty lines	12 16 0
Half a column	3 8 0	Fourteen lines	9 12 0
Quarter of a column	1 12 0	Ten lines	6 8 0
Eighth of a column	0 16 0	Eight lines	6 7 6

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES.

IN THE ENSUING WEEK.

SOCIETY.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DAY.	HOURLY CHARGE.
Royal Medical and Chir.	53, Berners-street	Tuesday	8 p.m.
Zoological	28, Leicester-square	Tuesday	8 p.m.
Royal Botanical	49, Pall-mall	Tuesday	8 p.m.
Society of Arts	Adelphi	Wednesday	7 p.m.
Graphic	Thatched-house Tavern	Wednesday	8 p.m.
Royal Asiatic	29, Bedford-street, Cov.	Friday	8 p.m.
Westminster Medical	14, Grafton-street	Saturday	2 p.m.
	Easter Hall	Saturday	8 p.m.

PUBLIC COMPANIES.

MEETINGS.

Cheser and Birkenhead Railway	Clarendon Rooms, L'pool	Apl. 10	12.
Maryport and Carlisle Railway	Station, Maryport	10	11.
Rock Tin Mining Company	George and Vulture Tavern	14	1.
Blasenavon Iron and Coal Company	London Tavern	23	1-2.
Baetense and Gaijan Bithmen Co.	St. Mildred's-court, Cornhill	23	1.
Newcastle-on-Tyne & Carlisle R'way	66, Clarence, Newcastle	27	12.
Cornwall Great United Mines	George and Vulture Tavern	29	2.
Newport Docks Company	Office, Newport	May 6	12.

DATE.

East Trelaw Mining Company	8a.	April 10.	Barclay, Bevan, and Co.
Wheel Locomo Mining Company	8a.	10	Barnett, Hoare, and Co.
Pulbore Mining Company	8a.	14	Bosanquet and Co.
South Australian Company	23	19	Lathbrough and Co.
London and South-Western R'way (Grosvenor Branch)	8a.	18	Williams and Co.
Southampton Docks	8a.	15	Williams and Co.
Redditch Mining Company	10a.	21	Bosanquet and Co.
Great North of England R'way	10a.	21	J. Pease, Darlington.
Agricultural and Commercial	10a.	21	Office.
Bank of Ireland	24	21	Barnett and Co.
Hartlepool Dock and R'way	24	21	Manchester & L'pool Dist. Bk.
Wheel Wallis Mine	24	May 10	London and County Bank.
Hungerford and Lambeth R'way (London Foot Bridge Co.)	24	10a.	Stone, Martin, and Co.
Blu de Ameri Gold-stream Works	10a.	22	London Joint Stock Bank.
Cambrian Iron and Smelter Co.	24	June 1	London Joint Stock Bank.

DIVIDENDS.

United Hills Mine Company	10s. per share	Office, Adam's-court	Apl. 15.
Commercial Bk. of New Orleans	4 per cent.	Maid, Irving, and Co.	16.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. Pridence's paper "On the Wet Assay of Copper—Correction by the Blowpipe," shall appear next week, we were unable to get the diagrams ready in time for this.

ANTHRACITE COAL.—The letter referred to by our Diligent correspondent has not come to hand; on reference to another column he will find we have made some use of the information furnished.

VENTILATION OF MINES.—The paper will be very acceptable.

Received.—"Mr. A. T. J. Martin"—"S. E. T."—"Verus"—"J. Williams"—"A. Constant Reader"—"R. T."

TO CORRESPONDENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

The OFFICE of the MINING JOURNAL is REMOVED from Gough-square to 37, New Broad-street, City, to which address all advertisements, communications, &c., must, in future, be directed.

THE MINING JOURNAL, Railway and Commercial Gazette.

LONDON, APRIL 10, 1841.

It is now some time since the subject of the use and properties of anthracite has been mooted in our columns, which is a matter of surprise, when its increasing consumption in the United States is considered, and the many purposes to which this description of fuel might be advantageously employed, whether for steam-engines, furnaces in the smelting of ores, or for domestic purposes. On referring to a Table, which was inserted last week, we find that the quantity of anthracite raised in the United States in three years, ending 1830, was as follows:—Schuylkill, 215,458 tons, or less than one-half the produce of 1840, which amounted to 452,291 tons—the aggregate produce for the three years ending 1840 being 1,329,583 tons, or more than six times the quantity raised in the like corresponding period ending 1830. At Mauch Chunk the quantity raised in three years, ending 1830, was 97,092, and for the like period ending 1840, 305,514 tons—an increase of 300 per cent. For Beaver Meadow, Hasleton, Sugar Loaf, Pine Grove, and Shamokin, it does not appear, from the returns, that any coal was raised until 1837, when the quantity is set down as 51,617 tons, while the returns for 1840 are 162,383 tons. At Lackawanna, in like manner, the output has increased, which, in 1830, produced only 43,000 tons, while the returns for 1840 are 148,470 tons. Thus, in 1830, the whole quantity of coal raised from these several districts amounted only to 174,774 tons; the returns for 1840 showing the quantity in that year to amount to no less than 865,308 tons—being five times the quantity. We may here remark, that the total quantity raised from 1831 to 1840, both inclusive, was 8,942,301 tons; the consumption, which, in 1832, was estimated at 177,000 tons, having increased, in 1839, to 867,000 tons.

With results such as these, it is, we repeat, surprising that an interest so important should, in this country, be comparatively lost sight of. It is true, that a South Wales Anthracite Association was established—or, perhaps, we should say, rather endeavoured to be so; but, it must be admitted, there is a vast difference between the United States and South Wales—in the one there is enterprise and perseverance—and there the "go-a-head" principle, or system, is in full swing; whereas, in Wales, there is a want of energy, which makes us at times wonder how many centuries after the civilization of other parts of the globe that this district became first populated.

Since writing the foregoing, we have received the reports of the Coal Mining Association of Schuylkill County, United States, which possess too much interest to be hastily glanced at; to these our attention will be more immediately directed, and in an early Number we hope to present an article of interest to our readers: in the interim, we invite our correspondents to the discussion of a

question, which becomes the more important from the advances daily making in the United States; they do progress most assuredly, and they have our best wishes for success—at the same time we cannot disguise from ourselves that we are half angry with our anthracite proprietors at home to find them so insensible to their own interests, and to the advancement of the interests of the community at large, by the employment it would afford to a large class of the labouring population.

The intention of Government to institute an inquiry into joint-stock companies, with a view to the prevention of fraud, has caused increased bustle in more than one establishment in the arrangement of the books and documents, so as to be prepared, when the time arrives, for rendering an account of themselves. If the committee appointed, however, only fulfil their duties, we apprehend that the exposition of fraud which must take place will lead to some legislative enactment, whereby the public will henceforward be protected from the designing arts of unprincipled projectors. It will not, however, be sufficient to provide for the future, but the past claims their especial attention, not only with the view of acquiring information whereby the committee may be guided in the results at which they may arrive, but to unmask fraud, and subject the concoctors and abettors of those fraudulent acts which may come before them in the course of the investigation to the consequences attendant on their conviction. The task will be an ungracious and unpleasant one to perform—much mystery will have to be unravelled, and some private feelings, and, perhaps, private interests sacrificed, in arriving at the truth; but, the several acts of fraud practised (in some instances under the protection of an Act of Parliament), which have been exposed even through the columns of the MINING JOURNAL, are fully sufficient to justify a Parliamentary inquiry. We will not, on the present occasion, cite the several companies to which we think the attention of the committee should be first directed, nor the individuals whose evidence is necessary to expose the system of chicanery and fraud which has been pursued for some time past. This, however, we may hazard, by way of anticipatory observation—viz., that the companies formed for life assurance within the past ten or twelve years have decidedly a first claim on the committee, and we hope that they will enjoy the preference. There are some few questions of a general nature which, we think, might be put in all cases, the answers given being confirmed by the production of the books of the company. Amongst others, we consider the following pertinent to the objects of the inquiry—

What the amount of capital subscribed, and number of shares taken on the company being formed and business commenced?

What the amount of capital now paid up, and how invested, distinguishing the several securities held by the company on the sums invested or advanced?

What the number of policies for life insurance, the amount for which the aggregate is insured, and what the total amount of annual premiums?

What the average life, probable term of duration, annual premium, and annual payments contemplated on the falling in of lives according to the scale on which insurances are effected?

What the difference, if any, in the scale of insurance as compared with those of other companies?

What the amount of policies which have fallen in since the formation of the company, and what the total amount of premiums received?

What the annual receipts of the company, distinguishing the separate years, and the sources from whence they were derived?

What the expenditure, in like manner, for each year, distinguishing whether payments made on policies, directors' salaries, office expenses, law charges, advertisements, &c.?

What the proportion or per centage which the expenses (exclusive of payments on the demise of the insured) bear to the annual receipts?

What the estimate of assets compared with liabilities?

What the number of directors, and mode of remuneration?

What profit has been divided among the proprietary and the insured?

What rate of interest is paid on the capital subscribed?

What the present state of the affairs of the company, supposing a cessation of business, showing the increase or decrease which has arisen to the capital invested?

These, and many other questions of a like nature, we think, should be put in every case, and which, if fairly answered, would at once lead to the line of examination to be thenceforward pursued, for well satisfied are we that the *exposé* which would take place under such circumstances would have the effect of annihilating many thriving establishments, and, by the publicity afforded to the evidence, not to advert to the measures which Parliament might deem it right to adopt, would open the eyes of the public, and act as a beacon, of which they would cautiously steer clear. Our attention will be directed to the proceedings of the committee, who, we trust, will not only report on companies now existing, but those defunct—on subject of which we believe Mr. Alderman THOMAS TALACRE WOOD could give some interesting and useful information.

We understand that the special committee of the Durham County Coal Company have appointed Mr. MATTHIAS DUNN, colliery viewer, to investigate and report upon the state of their colliery matters, preparatory to the general meeting of the company on the 27th inst. Having before had a good deal of experience of the tricks practised at general meetings, we strongly advise the shareholders, as they value their great responsibilities, to make a point of attending, to hear the state of their concerns laid open, and to vote accordingly.

The "Passenger"—No news of the *President* had reached Liverpool up to a quarter past ten o'clock yesterday (Friday) morning. The communication with Holyhead, by means of telegraph, is open. The prevailing opinions amongst persons who cannot bring their minds to believe that any fatal catastrophe has overtaken her, are, either that she has put back to New York or run for Bermuda; in which case a few days longer, and the uncertainty and alarm which prevail respecting the fate of this unfortunate ship may be expected to be cleared up and removed.

—*Clarendon W'way.*—This steam vessel sailed from Bristol on Thursday for New York direct, at half past one o'clock precisely, immediately upon the arrival of the north mail-bags. She took with her forty-three passengers, among whom were Mr. Jendon, Mr. Baring (of the firm of Baring Brothers), Mr. ... and an average cargo. Shortly after her departure, a gentleman arrived express with the morning papers, containing the overland mail and settlement of the China dispute; but he was, unfortunately, too late, and complained loudly that Captain Hosken and the directors had previous notification of his intended coming, and had planned to wait on him or two hours.

—*MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL RAILWAY.*—The directors are making great efforts to complete the carrying (goods) arrangements in Manchester. Twelve of the arches are now occupied by various caravans, and fitted up with every convenience to enable them to transmit goods on the line.

SMELTING IRON WITH ANTHRACITE COAL.

[From the report of the directors of the Coal Mining Association of Schuylkill County, U.S.]

The important object of smelting iron with anthracite coal, which has lately claimed so much attention, we mentioned in our last report as having been accomplished, and then in successful operation in this place, since which time five other furnaces have been put in blast—viz., one on the Lehigh, near Allentown, one at Phoenixville, one on Roaring Creek, near Cattawissa, and two at Danville. And at Danville two more are already built, that will shortly go into blast; and at Shamokin one stack has been built within the past year, which will soon be put into operation; and we learn that the valley furnace, situated about five miles east of Pottsville, has been rented, and will be put in operation as early as possible the ensuing summer. The number of furnaces using anthracite coal will no doubt be steadily increasing, since it has been satisfactorily settled that there is no difficulty in using this kind of fuel; and the iron, which was apprehended by many would be inferior, has been proved to be of a superior quality, particularly for castings, by possessing more fluidity when melted, and subsequently more compactness, strength, and smoothness.

A series of experiments has lately been performed by Mr. Richard Evans, of Manchester, of the quality of anthracite iron manufactured by the Ystal-y-fers Company, in the Swansea valley. In comparing the result of his experiments with Messrs. Fairbairn and Hodgkinson's list, he shows a superior strength in favour of anthracite cast-iron of 34 per cent. He says it is particularly sound, and free from air-holes or defects in casting; and if it is from excess of carbon that iron acquires the several qualities of uniformity, fluidity, smoothness in casting, &c., this metal must be highly charged with it. Its ultimate deflection, and power of resisting impact, it also maintains its superiority, and appears to impart great improvement in mixing with inferior ores.

In the report of the committee of judges on iron and steel, in the Franklin Institute of Pennsylvania, we find the following remarks on a specimen of anthracite iron:—"One piece of iron from anthracite pig-iron, from the Crane Iron Works, made into bar-iron at the Boonton Works, with anthracite coal.—This iron is of good quality, and deserves to be particularly noticed, as it goes to establish the fact that good iron may be made with anthracite coal exclusively, and also with a great saving both of metal and fuel; it is stated by the makers, that the whole waste of metal during the conversion does not exceed 12 per cent. Such facts we think are very encouraging to those engaged in making these experiments."

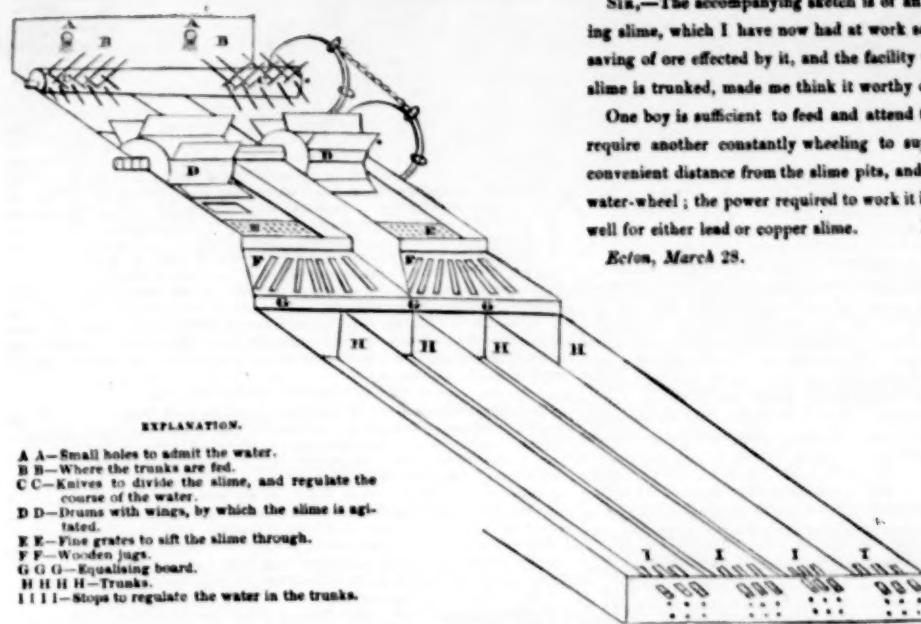
The amount of concurrent testimony throughout the country, sustaining these important facts, must be highly gratifying to all those who are interested in coal lands or coal operations, inasmuch as the manufacture of pig and bar-iron, in our own State, where ore is abundant, and the subsequent conversion of this iron into the various articles required in civilized life, must even very soon consume an immense amount of fuel.

* See Journal of the 22d of August last.

EXPLOSION OF BOILERS.

On Tuesday evening last, at the usual weekly meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers, among other papers, there was read an abstract of a paper by Dr. Schafhaeufl, which the author (who was present) illustrated by a small apparatus he had with him, to show that the bottom of the boiler was blown away before the top, in case of an explosion, or rather that the explosive force reached the lower part before the upper, and that therefore "the present safety valve was, in many cases, little better than useless." Mr. Josiah Parkes made many remarks on the doctor's experiments, and generally on the causes of the bursting or explosion of boilers. He gave several extraordinary instances of the different effects of explosions, and argued that there must be different causes to produce those various effects. In some cases the accident resulted from there being no water, or only very little, in the boiler; in others because there was too much; in some because the existing safety valve was closed; in others because it was suddenly opened; and in some cases because there was no water nor steam in the boiler, nor fire below it. He gave examples, and where the consequences had too often been the sacrifice of lives to a very great extent, as well as the destruction of property. After advertizing to the accident on the Norwich river in 1817, which he observed appeared to be one of those events that formed part of the "stock in trade" of every writer on steam-boiler explosions

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

IMPROVED MACHINE FOR TRUNKING SLIME.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

EXPLANATION.

A—Small holes to admit the water.
B—Where the trunks are fed.
C—Knives to divide the slime, and regulate the course of the water.
D—Drums with wings, by which the slime is agitated.
E—Fine grates to sift the slime through.
F—Wooden jugs.
G—Equalising board.
H—Trunks.
I—I—Stops to regulate the water in the trunks.

ON THE PREVENTION OF EXPLOSIONS IN MINES AND COLLIERIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

Sir,—I think I shall render a service to many of your readers by giving a short review of a work which lately appeared in Belgium. In consequence of the disastrous accidents which had occurred in that country from explosions of fire-damp in the mines, the Academy of Brussels announced as the question for the prize essay, for the year 1840—"To Investigate and Discuss the means of removing from Collieries the Dangers of Explosions;" and the Government offered to stimulate the concurrents by an additional grant to the successful candidates of 2000 francs. Several memoirs were handed in, five of which, with the preliminary report of the committee of the academy, and an appendix of the report of the commission sitting at Liège, on safety lamps, are now published, principally at the public expense, and, with the view of promoting their circulation among the collieries, sold at low price. The whole form an 8vo. vol. of 448 pages.

1. The first memoir is by M. Boisse, ingénieur des mines, at Charleroi. It is an able review of all that has been done, or is known, on the subject of ventilation. The historical record is correct, and the observations generally judicious, and we read it with pleasure and instruction; but yet we rise from the perusal without knowing what practical remedies we would apply in particular difficulties which would occur; it is, therefore, impossible to give an analysis of it. As one criticism, I may remark, that the author attributes too much to the effect of increased or diminished pressure of the atmosphere, as indicated by the rise or fall of the barometer, in affecting the ventilation, and I cannot concur in his proposal for forcing in air instead of aspirating it, in order to increase that pressure. It is as yet dubious, whether, in the case of a fall of the barometer, the deteriorated ventilation is caused directly by the diminished pressure, or whether that fall is merely coincident with other causes which affect the ventilation; and he does not seem to be aware that the difficulty of forcing in air increases with the distance, much more than when it is aspirated.

2. The second memoir, by M. Gonot, ingénieur en chef des mines, at Mons, is a paper of great merit; indeed, it appears to me the most valuable work which has been published in any country (unless, perhaps, that of M. Combès) on the subject of ventilation. The author takes strong and decided views, and states distinct propositions, supporting them with luminous scientific remarks, and facts drawn from his own experience. Although we may occasionally differ from him, we feel even then that he has instructed us, because he has prepared the questions for our consideration; but in general he commands our assent. What he states may be embraced in the following propositions:—1st. The alleged property of diffusion, or the property by which different gases and vapours mingle, independently of their densities and affinities, if it really exist at all, does not so much a degree and manner that it is to be assumed as a principle in the ventilation of mines. On the contrary, the author concludes, from his observations, that not only carbonated hydrogen will not mingle with the atmospheric air, under the ordinary current which exists in the Belgian mines, but even, after being mingled, will separate, and occupy the higher part of the drifts. He deduces as a corollary from this, that the drifts must be always conducted so that the carbonated hydrogen may ascend, and never contain workings in the shape of a bell or siphon, in the upper part of which the carbonated hydrogen may lodge. I think entirely with the author on this point; at the same time, as the dragging power of the current of atmospheric air depends on its velocity, I conceive that, in an extraordinary case, where it is indispensable that the current descend, by making the drift low, and regular, and the velocity of the current great, the carbonated hydrogen may be made to descend for a short distance.—2d. In mixtures of different gases and vapours, the tension of the mixture will be the united tensions of the elastic fluids mixed, therefore, as the specific gravity will be in the inverse ratio of the tension, the mean specific gravity of two gases, each of which have the specific gravity 1, will not be 1, but considerably less. (There can be no doubt of this in the case of a mixture of vapour with common air, and I shall suppose with the author, that it is generally true). But if these gases, or vapours, are also specifically lighter than air, then the specific gravity of the mixture will be diminished in a still higher ratio. By mixing, then, with air carbonated hydrogen, the specific gravity of which is only a little more than half that of air, or vapour of water, the specific gravity of which, at a temperature of 20 deg. of the centigrade thermometer, is only 1.64th of that of air, we obtain a mixture of even less specific gravity than the mean of the elastic fluids mixed.

Now, the external air is scarcely ever saturated with vapour; in general it is only saturated to the extent of 4-10ths; whereas, before the air, after crossing the workings, ascends, it has become fully saturated. It is evident, then, that, supposing the temperature above and below ground to be the same, the rate of the descent and ascent of the air to be equally deep, and the mine to disengage carbonated hydrogen, the more mixture of the hydrogen and vapour in the mine, by making the ascending column lighter than the descending, is sufficient to cause a current. In winter this effect will be increased by the difference of the temperature above and below ground; and in summer—at least, in great heats of summer—it will be diminished; but, still, even in the greatest heats, it may be sufficient, and, in point of fact, extensive mines near Liège are ventilated in this way alone, without other furnace or mechanical aspiration of the air.

The author having clearly established all this, then inquires what is the best mode of rendering activity to such natural ventilation?—The modes now in use are, 1st, mechanical aspiration. The objection to this is, that only about 1-10th of the force of the mechanical mover has hitherto been utilized; and it is probable that such a loss will always occur—that the quantity of air extracted can never be much increased, because that quantity is in the ratio of the capacity, and the velocity is only as the square root of the power applied, and that the mechanical apparatus renders a pit useless.—2d. The use of a furnace, at the bottom of the pit, as practised in the north of England and the north of France; or a furnace above ground, or near the mouth of the pit, connected with a high chimney, as practised in Belgium. The objection to the latter is, that the chimney is too short to produce a great effect; to the former, besides the immorality and danger, that the carbonic acid gas (whose specific gravity

when I saw it, it aspirated the air. This memoir excited at first much attention, from the confident assertion of the author, supported by calculations and experiments, that the quantity of force utilized was much greater than in the case of the common air-pump. But experiments, made by order of the Government, subsequent to the publication of the memoir, have shown that such is not the fact; nevertheless, as its cost is small, and it occupies little space, I conceive there may be situations where it would be useful; and, therefore, send you a drawing of it.

One boy is sufficient to feed and attend to the four trunks, but it will require another constantly wheeling to supply them. It is placed at a convenient distance from the slime pits, and worked by a rod from a large water-wheel; the power required to work it is trifling, and it serves equally well for either lead or copper slime.

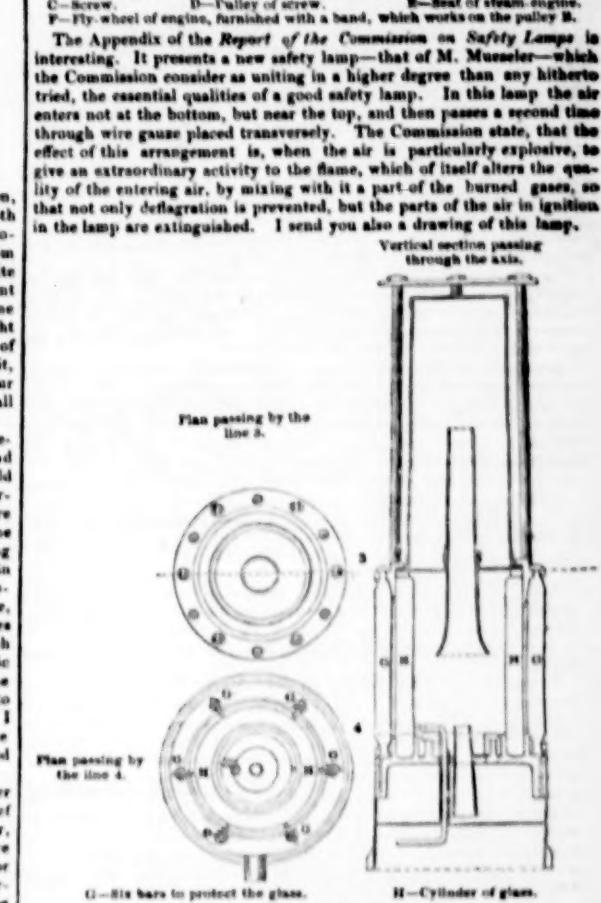
I am, Sir, your's, &c.,

Eaton, March 28.

A.—Inferior part of a cylinder placed vertically in a pit. B.—Upper part. C—Screw. D—Pulley of screw. E—Fly-wheel of engine, furnished with a band, which works on the pulley B.

The Appendix of the *Report of the Commission on Safety Lamps* is interesting. It presents a new safety lamp—that of M. Mueseler—which the Commission consider as uniting in a higher degree than any hitherto tried, the essential qualities of a good safety lamp. In this lamp the air enters not at the bottom, but near the top, and then passes a second time through wire gauze placed transversely. The Commission state, that the effect of this arrangement is, when the air is particularly explosive, to give an extraordinary activity to the flame, which of itself alters the quality of the entering air, by mixing with it a part of the burned gases, so that not only deflagration is prevented, but the parts of the air in ignition in the lamp are extinguished. I send you also a drawing of this lamp.

Vertical section passing through the axis.



London, April 6.

I remain, Sir, your's, &c.,

A CONSTANT READER.

ON MINE SURVEYING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

Sir,—Your correspondent, "John Budge," appears determined not to "budge" from the ground upon which he has taken his stand, in reference to mine surveying. When, however, a person is compelled, in support of his own arguments, to give replies to his own questions, it certainly would seem to imply a want of tact in the management of a correspondence of this nature, which I am inclined to think he has discovered, by the plain and simple retort his egotism has brought upon him by the letter in your Journal of the 3d inst., signed "R. Tregaskis," who I know to be a practical man, and fully as capable of understanding the question as "John Budge" can possibly be.

It appears to me that a good deal of time has been thrown away, and a considerable portion of your Journal has been needlessly occupied in discussing questions not at all relevant to the matter, and more particularly in reference to correct work being performed with incorrect instruments.

"John Budge" treats the miner's dial and chain as useless lumber, and as things that should never be used for mining purposes in the way they have been called into practice by the Captain Billies, and the Captain Joes, and all the captain noodies of the last century; and, if we are to believe his statements, all those who have used them for underground dialling, are as ignorant of the subject as he would lead us to believe the dial to be unitted to it, and that neither the one nor the other can, in the least degree, be relied upon.

Is "John Budge" aware of the fact, that the very mode he has adopted to deprive the use of the one, and to lower the abilities of the other, is the strongest proof he could bring forward to prove the very opposite fact that he would wish should be deduced from it? If it be true that the dial is such a very imperfect instrument, how are we to account for the perfection of the work that has been performed under its use? And if in addition to the imperfection of the instrument we add, that it has been used by a parcel of blunder-headed noodies, how are we to account for the accuracy of the results? Does "John Budge" intend to say that, because blunders may have been committed by the use of the dial and chain, that they should, therefore, be discarded altogether? Is he prepared to prove that no blunders have ever been made in the use of logarithms? He has named one instance of an error committed in a mine in Gloucester; and I have no doubt that if he were to go through the mining district of the country, and make inquiry, he would find out many more—and what of that? Is there anything so wonderful in it, that it is to be held up to the scorn and ridicule of the world, because it proves that there is not always perfection to be found in the means made use of? But let him also make inquiries on the other side of the question, and honestly acknowledge the work that has been performed by the use of the dial in the hands of those *fat* noodies, and the instances of accuracy, when compared with those of error, would be so great, as to cause a disposer all that he has said against the use of the miner's dial, "Facts are stubborn things," and he who attempts to write against them undertakes a task. I will name one more fact for his consideration.

It is well known—at least by those who are conversant with mining matters, and "John Budge" is not ignorant of it—that the greater portion of the agents of mines are men who have had very little education, but who have been brought up and employed in the mines from their youth—*in fact*, I may say, that there are very few of them who know anything of mechanics; and yet this is the class of persons who are principally called upon to use this very imperfect instrument, upon occasions of the greatest importance—and they do use it with the greatest accuracy; indeed, with this instrument those persons will commence a new shaft from the surface, and they will also carry on the operations underground,

by sinking under and rising above the different levels, at ten, or even twenty different points, with so much accuracy, that one perfect shaft shall be thus formed from top to bottom, as correctly as if it had been sunk all the way from the surface. If any doubt was felt by any individual as to the use of the miner's dial, this fact would be sufficient to remove it; and yet there are thousands of instances to be met with equally convincing, and any error that can be pointed out can only be deemed an exception from the general rule of correctness.

"John Budge" is, of course, at perfect liberty to advocate any views he may entertain upon this or any other subject, and also endeavour to prove that they are correct ones—of this no one can complain; but I would recommend his doing so without having recourse to such a mode of argument as would seem to imply that he must be right, and all others must be wrong—a mode which, as applied to this question, is calculated to reflect upon the knowledge and ability possessed by a respectable and intelligent set of individuals—the agents of mines—and to make it appear that they do not possess the necessary qualifications for conducting their own business, which, coming from him who has been brought up with them, seems somewhat strange, and cannot be accounted for upon the principle of giving to every one his due. I remain, Sir, your's, &c.,

AN OLD-FASHIONED DIALLER.

ON MINE SURVEYING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

Sir.—Your correspondent, Captain Budge, is able to spin a long yarn, and, if I am not mistaken, was able to do so long before he undertook to survey mines or write a book. I think it very ungrateful of him to allow that intelligent and respectable mine agent, Captain R. Malachy, to be supposed as the "Captain Bob" he alluded to in his forty years' ago tale, when it is well known that, but for his knowing the same "Captain Bob," he would have remained ignorant of mine surveying, and unable to write a book, except it was about the weight and strength of a captain's cap. Again, his going back forty years for a proof of the inefficiency of the old system of dialling, shows a bad case; he might as well have gone back to the year 1778, when Prys wrote his *Mineralogia Cornubiensis*. *Prænæssæ*—The instruments used for dialling are a compass, without a gnomon or style, but a centre pin projecting from the middle of the compass to loop a line to, or stick a candle upon, fixed in a box exactly true and level with its surface, about six, eight, or nine inches square, nicely glazed with strong white glass, and a cover suitable to it hung square and level with the upper part of the instrument; a 24-inch gauge, or 2-foot rule, and a string or small cord, with a plummet at the end of it, a little stool to place the dial horizontally, and pegs and pins of wood, a piece of chalk, and pen, ink, and paper."

That time is gone by as well as the forty years' ago tale, but the traversing on the surface with the "same dial and chain" will never be done away with as long as mining exists, although it may not be had recourse to, but on very important occasions, or to prove the work of a parlour miner.

I will at some future time (with your permission) state more fully my opinion of the safest and easiest way of mine surveying. Before I conclude I wish to say a word or two to your Halkin Mountain correspondent. If I am correctly informed, the person that "sailed for Carnarvon without a rudder" was never a "Cornish captain," but a plain, honest, Cornish miner, quite undeserving of the attack made on him; but, as "Cambrian" has already been pretty well handled by your Breage and Holywell correspondents, I shall leave him to his own reflections.

I remain, Sir, your's, &c.,

M. W. M.

ON MINE SURVEYING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

Sir.—After the full exposure and proofs of the badness of the old mode of dialling which has lately been given in the Journal, will not all thinking and unprejudiced persons be assured that the man who still persists in defending that contemptible practice is a real enemy both to miners and mining?

I passed over the first letter of R. Tregaskis, of Perran, in respect to his age and prejudices, but, as he has been emboldened to write again, in a most presumptuous, surly, and erroneous manner, I feel myself impelled to call on him to reply. This person's arguments (if they may be so called) in favour of the old method have been refuted over and over again in former letters, but we will just sift his conclusions as briefly as possible. He says—"If the last peg of the first series answers to that of the second series the work is right." How dare he put forth such an assertion? How possible is it that a uniformity of error, of great extent, may occasion such a result? But, further, is not he, and all tracing dials, fully conscious that it is a hundred to one against him that the terminating pegs will not fall together?

It may be quite relevant here to observe, that it seldom happens when the surface will answer for diallers to trace their underground work immediately vertical, or directly over head, consequently they have to go at a distance for a level field, and, in that case, after all they can do, they can only obtain a guess line of the final course and distance, and, even then, they have to bring, or transfer, this long and naked line to its required place, utterly destitute of the admirable check of the cardinal corresponding distances which the trigonometrical system furnishes, so that they are exposed to error upon error.

This correspondent says that "the new version of the Gwennap story is scratched into my memory with the point of a diamond!" I really do not understand this. Surely, all who have taken the trouble to read the letters, must know that the reply of Mr. Tregaskis was a most complete confirmation of my account of the Gwennap pegging match; and, so notorious were the facts that, after a lapse of forty years, he could at once identify and expose the very mine, shaft, and pair, when only the pair was mentioned! But when our learned Perran sage tries to write against the true system of mine surveying, he lets out some strange sentiments indeed. No less than three times does he mention the "operations of the mind," and states, in the pure old Cornish positive case—"every operation of the mind is subject to error!" What can we make of this, Mr. Editor? Must we conclude that the old diallers have no mind, or only that they have a mind which cannot, or must not, be operated upon? This is, indeed, something for the curious to muse over. But, lastly, my brother Cornishman says, in effect, that "the tracing and pegging a crooked level is all straightforward!" Is not this, Sir, as neat a little bit of Irishism as you ever met with in all your visits to happy Liberia?

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.,

John Budge.

SLAVERY IN THE ANGLO-BRAZILIAN MINES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING POST.

Sir.—As a shareholder of a Brazilian mining company which has of late been chosen for a target by a party whose well-meaning intentions cannot be mistaken, I can but declare that I shall most willingly join the disinterested proposals of those of my brother shareholders, who have only of late discovered that the produce of our mine was always raised by slave labour, provided the principle is arrived at which will make it a rule for none of our countrymen to hold slaves either in Brazil or elsewhere; and shall, therefore, be glad at one next half-yearly meeting to see a proposal made which may lead to such an end. Nor do I think it right to doubt of a disposition in the several other Brazilian mining companies to co-operate towards so great an object; for I suspect that, if there exists a sufficient degree of culpability amongst the sister companies, our is not the most culpable, as it bought no slaves since 1824, while all others bought their blacks after the conclusion of the slave trade by treaty, and some, as is said by the *Mining Journal*, even such as have been acknowledgedly imported in contravention of the Brazilian law of November, 1834, which declares all negroes thus imported free.

I therefore say again, that, if all the sister companies will sincerely co-operate, I am most willing to make the sacrifice required, which, upon the whole, will be but small, for, presumed that our negroes have been treated well, I am not apprehensive that we should lose their services entirely even were we to free them at once, and not by a term of apprenticeship, a measure I am inclined to count, not for the sake of and from benevolent views, but on account of the evil springing therefrom to the Africans themselves.

Should my proposal be well received I shall not object to coming forward at an early opportunity, though, unlike some of my brethren, I am sorry to say I cannot make out my ignorance of having been a shareholder while I unquestionably was.

A SHAREHOLDER IN THE IMPERIAL BRAZILIAN MINE.

MINERAL WEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

As so many of our countrymen are interested in Pennsylvania loans, and so much unfounded apprehension has been excited as to the safety of these investments, probably by interested parties, I send you an extract from Governor Porter's message of the 6th of January last, touching upon the progress of iron manufacturers in that flourishing section from the British stock. We ought, as having a deep stake in her prosperity, to wish for the extension of these developments, for as the money borrowed has all been expended upon her railroads and canals, we are rendered more secure in receiving our dividends punctually, if a brisk trade is kept up. Nor ought we to entertain any jealousy of the increase of her manufacturers of so bulky an article as iron; for if, by saving the duty levied on foreign imports, it can be afforded at a cheap rate on the spot, it will be applied to so many new uses, as not only to interfere with our exports, but to call for greater supplies of railroad iron, which they admit duty free. Among these new uses (from which they are now only debared by the high price of the imported article), are iron boats on their three to four thousand miles of canals, and especially for steam-boats on the Ohio and Mississippi, where the "snags," "planters," and "sawyers," annually demolish scores of the slightly-built wooden steamers, but which recent experience has proved to be innocuous against the iron ribs and coats of mail of the two boats recently built at Pittsburgh.—"Our commonwealth (remarks the Governor) possesses a fertile soil and unbounded agricultural and mineral wealth. The variety and extent of our water-power give great facilities to the manufacture of our grain into bread stuff, and for every other branch of manufacture, either needed for the supply of our citizens, or the employment of their capital. Had Pennsylvania already reached the full development of her resources with her present pecuniary responsibilities weighing her down, we might well contemplate our situation with trembling solicitude. But this is not the case; throughout the whole extent of her ample territory, there is scarcely a square mile which does not abound in some or all of the great staples of her mineral wealth; anthracite and bituminous coal, iron, marble, and limestone have been scattered by Nature with a most profuse hand, and have been hitherto worked barely enough to prove with what prodigality they have been lavished upon us. The coal-field of our commonwealth embraces more than one-fifth of its area, and more than three times as much as belongs to entire Europe. Connected with the coal which abounds in so large a portion of the commonwealth, we have large supplies of iron ore almost in immediate contact with it. In addition thereto we have, within convenient distances, almost all the other varieties of iron ore found in any part of the world. The adaptation of anthracite coal to the smelting of iron ore has been followed by its successful and profitable application in the further stages of the manufacture of the metal, and that the same results will speedily follow from the application of bituminous coal may be looked for with almost absolute certainty. While the iron manufactured with charcoal will always be wanted for the finer purposes, and the demand for it increased by the natural increase of the population of the country, that manufactured from mineral coal, will be employed in the construction of railroads, and for innumerable other purposes. This discovery must stand as a distinguished era in the annals of our commonwealth. It cannot fail to add millions of dollars to her active and available capital, and will ere long transfer to our own citizens most, if not all, of the large sums that are now annually sent abroad for railroad iron, and other iron manufactured articles. The manufacture of these numerous and valuable commodities will not only result in enriching Pennsylvania, but will cut off a large item in the imports of this country, tend to emancipate us from European dependence, enable our sister States to complete their railroads at a cheaper and better rate, and strengthen the national union by the strength of all ties—that of mutual interest. Nor is there in Pennsylvania a single class of citizens who will not share directly in the advantages. The owners of coal and iron deposits, and those who engage in the manufacture and sale of these productions, will derive the first benefit; but the farmer, the mechanic, the merchant, and every other citizen will feel immediately the salutary impulse which will be communicated to his own peculiar business. The value of our canals and railroads must be greatly enhanced, as well as that of all other species of property. With the cheap and ready means which they will afford for the transportation of our various products and manufactures, there can be no doubt that the trade and business of the State must extend and increase with unexampled rapidity, and, by prudence and good management, be perpetuated. In this gradual and certain development of our resources, may be found abundant means to liquidate our public debt, and to discharge every other liability that can be justly cast upon the State. I confess it affords me peculiar gratification to advert to this topic, for it shows most satisfactorily that though this commonwealth has been somewhat in advance of the time in extending her improvement system so widely as she has done, the people, notwithstanding, are destined, at no remote period, to realise most amply all the benefits it was ever expected to produce."

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

BRITISH IRON COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

Sir.—The note which you appended to my letter, in your last Journal, is calculated to injure me in the opinion of others, who are looking to the words which I am taking to defend myself against the attack of Mr. Larpent, and at I feel quite sure that you will never compromise the integrity of your Journal, by refusing to do justice where injury has been inflicted by the "sight system." I hope you will allow me to make the following remarks in your next publication.—

You say—"We regret that many questions of an important nature are too frequently lost sight of by personalities being indulged in, and, in the present instance, we feel that the real question at issue may be merged or forgotten in the consideration of attack and defence of personal character." As regards the case between Mr. Larpent and myself, the real question at issue was neither merged nor forgotten, but made conspicuous throughout my letter, addressed to that gentleman, not in the character of a private individual, but as a shareholder of the British Iron Company—the question being the wrong done to the shareholders by means of the "sight system." I was, therefore, more surprised that you did not do me the justice I solicited, by giving insertion to my letter, especially when I found that the British Iron Company was placed in the leading article of the same Journal, as the most gigantic example of the enormous effect hitherto exhibited of that very "sight system."

Again, you observe—"We have too high an opinion of Mr. Larpent, and the position he holds in society, to suppose that he would venture into the personal charge, and merely abuse or invert his authority by a personal attack on Mr. Cort, whom is the grand Mr. C. assumed." But had your reporter not been a student, like myself, from the special general meeting on the 10th February last, you would have received, in the words of your own agent, "instead of the words of a shareholder" who was present, that Mr. Larpent did damage and direct his authority, exactly in the way which you think he was incapable of doing, namely by a personal attack on myself, but a personal attack on the majority of the whole of the shareholders, although representing nearly two-thirds in the company, including a banker of the west end of the town, and others quite as wealthy and respectable as himself. Why such an attack was then and there so made cannot be explained, unless it were to deter the shareholders assembled from giving any confidence in the case proposed to be referred for the opinion of some eminent counsel, relative to charges of fraud practised by some of the agents of the company, which it might have been deemed inexpedient to expose publicly to the shareholders.

If the chairman did not avoid entering into the general charge, he can point out which of the charges he did not avoid, or did not do—whether the parties accused attempted to disprove any one of them—whether, in fact, the whole of the parties did not prefer endeavouring to the "sight system." The high opinion which you entertain of the chairman of the British Iron Company, and the position he holds in society, may be well founded, but I ask, is it consistent with such high opinion, as creditable to the position to which you allude, for the chairman of the British Iron Company, with doors closed against yourself and the press generally to publish the names of nearly 200 shareholders assembled, with a list in the documents of an absent opponent, while he holds in his own hands, as print, the strongest possible evidence that the late chairman, his own partner, Mr. H. B. Palmer, sitting by his side, had only a few weeks before issued a circular letter to the several shareholders and legatees of that very opponent. Such conduct, I am confident, does not come within the scope of the "high opinion" in which you rate. Yet the chairman did so conduct himself at the special general meeting on the 10th February last, to the great injury of myself, and me which I will hold him amenable in a court of justice, if any of the shareholders present will furnish me, in writing, the words he referred to my predecessor.

In conclusion, your remark—"The letter, we think, might have been written in a more cool and temperate manner, for it appears to us the style itself precludes the chance of reply." Now, Mr. Budge, had this opinion been appended to the letter itself, and you had given both in your resolution, it would have been, with every difference to yourself, more fair to my self, as your motives might then have deserved credit. There was a single word not justified by the injury which had been inflicted by a highly influential authority, namely our bank. And, as regards the style precluding the chance of reply, you have occasionally yourself not informed the editor, on similar occasions, especially with reference to the Taff Vale railway, of the name of the editor of the *Mining Journal*, "sight system," which is not one twentieth part of a reason to reflect, or to regard him as the author of the article in question. As the case of the British Iron Company. Instead, therefore, of the style precluding the chance of a reply, the chance contained in my action was much too obvious not to have commanded immediate public attention, had justice to myself and not discrediting of character, been the sole object of this most and over-weight attack. For these reasons, I again rely on your justice for the insertion of our notes. It only to prove my point, that those who advocate and practise the "sight system" serve the exact opposite, namely, much more discrediting of character than the "sight system" itself.

I am, Sir, your's, &c.,

JOHN BUDGE.

ON THE RESOURCES AND APPLICATION OF COAL.

[The following lecture was delivered at the Pontypool Mechanics' Institute, by Mr. W. Llewellyn, mining engineer, and one of the secretaries of the institution.]

GEOLOGY—SECT. COAL.

On a former occasion the lecturer had explained the various theories and recent discoveries of geology and geologists, and now confined himself to the formation, nature, peculiarity, and history of coal, and the strata or measures connected with the coal basin. Science we look upon to belong not to localities alone, but to the world, and through the ubiquity conceded to the Press we are enabled to pick up morsels for our readers almost everywhere. Mr. Llewellyn said that in the earliest period of geological science geologists were taunted as irreligious and disbelieving persons, and the science itself as tending to overthrow all religion; but now, as the discoveries in geology are gradually made so have the objections fallen away, till geology is now almost universally believed in; it is a science much calculated to fill the mind, at the same time with pleasure in examining the various compositions of the different strata that come under the notice of the student, with wonder and awe at the vast size and beautiful arrangement of those strata, and, above all, with admiration of the Great Disposer and Creator of them—an astronomy teaches us how "the heavens declare the glory of God," so does geology convince us that "the earth sheweth His handy work." It is proved by geologists that the world existed long before the account of the creation of light given by Moses, in the Bible; and in all the discoveries of geologists not one has been made tending in the least degree to contradict that most sacred truth, that "in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

THE STRUCTURE OF THE EARTH.

The crust of the earth is divided into two classes of rocks—viz., the unstratified and stratified, the former being of igneous, and the latter of aqueous origin. Of the former class there is no manner of telling the age, but when they enter into a stratified mass, in veins, it is certain that these veins have been formed since the strata in which they are formed, since it is evident they have entered therein in a liquid state. Of the latter class the lowest are subdivided into the following divisions, or, as they are termed by geologists, formations—viz., the primary transition, secondary, and tertiary formations—of these the lowest or primary have peculiarities not to be met with in other strata, for instance, they contain no fossils, and are of a crystalline structure; they were deposited prior to animal or vegetable existence, and hence derive the name of primary. The secondary differs from the primary in containing many fossils. The lower strata of this formation very much resemble the primary, and are called transition rocks, from the supposition that they were deposited at a period when the earth was passing into a state fit to receive animal and vegetable life on its surface; many fossils of kinds now extinct are found in this formation, and it is to this formation that the coal measures belong. The higher strata of the secondary formation are called tertiary, and contain many fossils similar to kinds now existing. Some fossils in this formation are immensely large; a kind of lizard has been found in it of the enormous length of 100 feet. The unstratified rocks are so disposed as to form immense basins in their hollows, so that by this wise arrangement of Divine Providence we are able to get at all the strata, as they crop out and cover different parts of a district.

Coal is the most valuable of minerals, especially as used for the steam-engine. The lecturer stated that he was disposed to believe that the use of coal was known to the Ancient Britons, although history is silent on the subject, its present application being a British and not a Saxon word. In corroboration of this view, it is stated in *Pennant's Tour in Wales*, that a flat axe, which undoubtedly belonged to the Ancient Britons, was discovered stuck in the crop of a stratum of coal at Cnwy Lark, in the county of Merioneth. In the year 852 there is undoubted evidence of its properties being known, for in this year the abbey of Peterborough granted lands under the reservation of certain payments to the monastery, amongst which are fifty cart loads of wood and twelve of pit-coal. The first public notice of coal is stated by Hume to have been in the reign of Henry III., who, in the year 1272 granted a charter to Newcastle, giving the inhabitants a license to work the mineral. In the year 1306 we find Edward I. prohibiting the use of coal in London, in consequence of the offensiveness of the smell. Coal was not brought into general use until the reign of Charles I., and it was then introduced in consequence of the great decay of wood fuel, and its adoption was an affair not of choice but of stern necessity; for Stowe says in his *Annales*, which were written ten years before the time of Charles I., that in his time the "nice dames of London would not come into any house or room where coal was burned, nor willingly eat of the meat that was either sold or roasted with coal." During the reign of Charles I., in consequence of the scarcity of wood, which was then severely felt, many persons engaged in the iron manufacture had endeavoured to smelt iron with coal, but their efforts were long unsuccessful. The first who appears to have succeeded in so doing was a gentleman of the name of Dudley, who lived during the Civil Wars. In a work which he published, called *Metallum Martis*, he gives a full and interesting account of his experiments for the smelting of iron with pit-coal. Like many other geniuses and benefactors of no ordinary kind, Dudley was exposed to discouragements and persecutions. He was a man of great energy and resolution, and in his efforts to introduce and perfect that process, to which this country owes so much of her wealth, her power, and her prosperity, he was nearly ruined, and, indeed, ultimately consigned to a jail; nor was it generally adopted until about a century afterwards. Wood, notwithstanding, almost entirely used until the early part of the last century, and at that period the iron trade seemed dwindling into utter insignificance. It will, perhaps, be hardly credited, that, even at this comparatively recent period, the means employed in making iron were of the rudest kind. The furnaces were exceedingly small, making no more than fifteen to twenty tons of iron per week each, and were supplied with air from a bellows, worked by horses, oxen, or even human labour. About this time, however, coal again became an object of general consideration for smelting purposes, and the steam-engine being employed in working the blowing machinery, and thus increasing the column of blast necessary to produce combustion, the process was attended with complete success, and was universally adopted in the year 1740, or exactly 100 years ago, the first person who used it with success being Mr. Abraham Darby, of Coalbrookdale Ironworks. The total quantity of iron manufactured in Great Britain in that year, was only 17,350 tons; there were then but four furnaces in the counties of Monmouth and Glamorgan (two in each county), they made in that year 1300 tons of iron. This was the state of things in 1840, and it may not be uninteresting to contrast it with the present prosperous condition of the iron trade. In 1836 the iron manufactured in South Wales alone amounted to the enormous quantity of 304,919 tons, or more than twenty times as much as was manufactured in the whole of Great Britain ninety-six years before that period. The South Wales coal basin is very rich in iron ore, but till very lately the western part only could be worked, as the coal in other parts of the basin was not fit for smelting purposes; but now, in consequence of a very valuable discovery made by a Welsh iron master (George Crane, Esq., Yatton), the whole of the basin is worked; but to describe this discovery, it will be, perhaps, necessary to describe the manner of making iron. Iron ore is carbonaceous iron. The first process that it undergoes in that called "roasting," to drive off the carbonaceous gas; it is then put into the furnace with lime; the use of lime is this—it unites itself with the earthy matter, and being lighter than the iron it rises to the surface; now, if coal be used in smelting it makes the iron brittle—it becomes, consequently, necessary to take away the sulphur from the coal, which is performed by a process called "cooking." Coke is nearly pure carbon, but still it is not so pure as charcoal. Now, the discovery is this—stone coal is also nearly pure carbon, and can be employed instead of coke; this coal was so difficult to ignite that no iron was at the western part of the basin could be worked till Mr. Crane applied his discovery, by roasting it with hot air (technically called hot-blast), so that now all the iron can be worked.

Coal is divided into four divisions—viz., cocal coal, so called as it comes out of the mine in cubes; slate coal, which very readily splits, but will not readily break across; cannel coal, which breaks in square columns, and burns like a candle; and stone coal, or anthracite. These are subdivided into a very great number of different kinds, according to the component parts of each.

ANALYSIS OF COAL IN THE SOUTH WALES BASIN.

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